Hafa Adai!

Manibusan seeks passage of bill that protects OAG's autonomy. PAGE 2

Settlement being explored in discrimination suit filed vs IPI. PAGE 5

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Heads to roll at CUC

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

'Leadership change at CUC is needed'

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has expressed concern over the current leadership of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and how he is determined to replace the department's current executive director.

In a letter to both the CUC board of directors and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Palacios said his primary objective is to appoint new board members to the CUC board and to ensure the appointment of a new and qualified CUC executive director.

Palacios

Gary Camacho is CUC's current executive director. *Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from him yesterday, but he was not answering his phone. He also did not respond to an email message.

"As the new governor of the CNMI, and now a party to the federal stipulated orders directing the CUC to reach compliance with the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water

Camacho

See CUC on Page 4

Turkish teen filmed 'last moments' from earthquake-struck apartment

By ROBERT BADENDIECK and MUCAHIT CEYLAN
Associated Press

ADIYAMAN, Turkey (AP) —A 17-year-old high school student has captured Turkish hearts after he filmed a farewell message to his loved ones as he was trapped under the rubble of his home during last week's earthquake.

Taha Erdem and his family were fast asleep when a 7.8 magnitude quake hit their hometown of Adiyaman in the early hours of Feb. 6.

Taha was abruptly woken

See TURKEY on Page 4

MEHMET MUCAHIT CEYLAN/AP

Taha Erdem, 17, center, his mother Zeliha Erdem, left, and father Ali Erdem pose for a photograph next to the destroyed building where Tahan was trapped after the earthquake of Feb. 6, in Adiyaman, Turkey, Friday, Feb. 17, 2023.

Bermudes to be named DPS chief

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Palacios-Apatang administration has officially named Clement Bermudes as its nominee for the position of Department of Public Safety commissioner and is set to submit his nomination to the Senate.

In a brief interview with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Friday, he shared that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang have officially chosen Clement Bermudes as the successor to take on the controversial DPS commissioner role.

"It was actually Lt. Gov. Apatang who came up with the name. Now, we will be

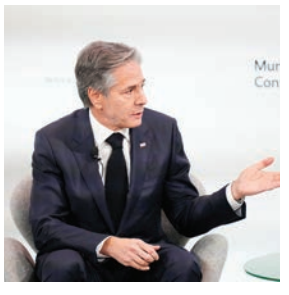
See DPS on Page 4

SPEEDERS BEWARE!
Young officers of the Department of Public Safety try out laser speed guns at incoming vehicles along Beach Road across Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium as part of their training. DPS Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program, Highway Patrol, and Traffic officials recently completed a two-day training for 15 police officers on how to properly use and calibrate laser speed guns. DPS recently acquired six laser speed guns, including two new ones.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Godfather's Bar & Grill that's the go-to watering hole for night owls now serves lunch.
PAGE 11



WORLD
The Biden administration is scrambling to avert a diplomatic crisis over Israeli settlements.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
The Directors Guild of America handed its top prize for filmmaking to Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Manibusan seeks passage of bill that protects OAG's autonomy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan has sought the help of Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) and Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan) to pass legislation that he says protects the autonomy of the Office of the Attorney General.

Babauta

Manibusan told Babauta and Flores that in order to provide the Commonwealth's need to address current issues involving waste and abuse of public funds, the Office of the Attorney General requires filling the four attorney positions that have not been funded, including funds to provide administrative support. In all, the OAG would need $414,640, he said.

Manibusan

Manibusan met with Babauta last Monday, Feb. 13, and with Flores last Jan. 23, to discuss the importance of an autonomous OAG. He subsequently wrote separate

» OAG needs $414,460 to fill 4 attorney positions, for administrative support

but identical letters to Babauta and Flores about their discussions.

Babauta chairs the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, while Flores chairs the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

In his letter to Babauta last week, Manibusan said he cannot emphasize enough the importance of the attorney general having authority over the hiring of OAG employees, independent of the Civil Service Commission.

He said that granting that authority to the OAG fulfills the constitutional mandate that creates the office as an independent agency within the Executive Branch and protects against unnecessary political interference by other members of the Executive Branch.

Flores

Manibusan said the AG's Investigative Division performs essential law enforcement functions directly under his control and direction must have clear statutory authority to serve as the OAG's investigative arm.

He said the AGID investigators perform tasks that are fundamental in implementing the

See OAG on Page 4

Probable cause found to try habitual offender anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court for the NMI has found probable cause to try a habitual offender who was arrested anew on multiple charges in relation to a recent burglary.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho found probable cause last Friday to try Johnny John Basiente after hearing the testimony of the government's witness, police detective Eugene Dillay.

Based on the matters cited at the hearing, the court found probable cause to believe that Basiente committed the crimes of burglary, vandalism, three counts of assault and battery, and three counts of disturbing the peace.

Following the hearing, Basiente was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court on March 6 for his arraignment.

According to court documents, police responded to a theft-in-progress at the GuangZhou restaurant last Jan. 30. At the scene, officers spoke with one of three victims, Qiwen Wu, who reported the incident.

Wu said that earlier that morning, she and her husband, along with her sister, were sleeping in their rooms on the third floor when they were awakened by their barking dogs.

Wu said she went to check her cameras and discovered that they had been turned off even though she claims she never turns them off.

As she was looking at the cameras, Wu's husband went down to the second floor where he found Basiente in one of the karaoke rooms hiding inside the restroom.

When Basiente tried to flee the scene, Wu, her husband, and her sister stopped him.

However, when Wu told him to wait for the police, Basiente allegedly punched Wu in the face, pulled her sister's hair, and pushed her husband and managed to flee the scene.

Outside the restaurant, Basiente allegedly picked up a piece of wood and tried to hit the victims with it before entering a white vehicle. The victims managed to get a photo of the car's license plate number.

At around 9:17am that same day, Wu was interviewed by investigators, telling them that Basiente had punched her about three or four times.

Basiente was arrested last Feb. 8 and he allegedly admitted to breaking into the restaurant despite having a previous court order that directs him to stay away from the establishment.

Basiente is a habitual offender with criminal felonies dating back to 2006.

Pacific audit staff hone media, communications skills

NADI, Fiji—The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions recently held a Communications and Media training for 24 staff from 16 public audit offices in the Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM National, FSM Pohnpei, FSM Yap, Guam, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

From Feb. 7 to 10, participants learned how to draft media releases, prepared a spokesperson for a media interview, maximized their impact with social media content, and incorporated multimedia into audit reports and related communications material.

Participants also hade the chance to work with training facilitators to prepare for their next stakeholder engagement event and developed an annual communications operational plan that supports their offices' strategic priorities.

Annie Subactagin-Matto, PASAI director for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting, and her team facilitated the training. "We aim to improve our members' ability to effectively communicate audit findings, increase the impact of their work and demonstrate their value to the lives of citizens in the Pacific," she had said.

PASAI director (South Pacific), Meresimani Vosawale-Katuba; communications adviser Luke Eaton; and eLearning specialist Danial Sadeqi also facilitated the training at the training venue in Nadi, Fiji.

The workshops built on previous training in PASAI's Communications Program delivered online over the last three years, including developing and implementing a communications strategy, stakeholder engagement, report writing and multimedia use. Facilitators and participants will still benefit from using PASAI's online Learning Platform before, during and after the in-person training.

"That so many audit staff are willing to travel from all around the Pacific shows the strong demand for this kind of training, customized to the needs of each audit office," Subactagin-Matto added.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. ***(PR)***

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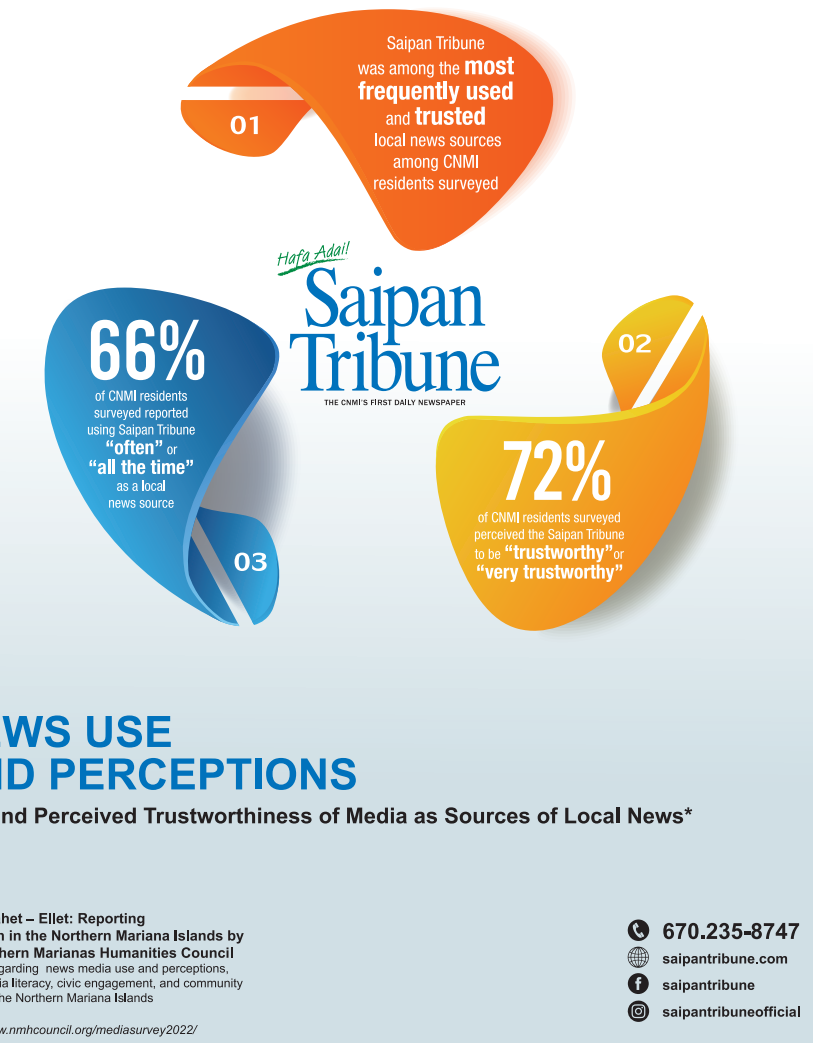
01
Saipan Tribune was among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
66%
of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source
02
72%
of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"
03

NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS
Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*

*Source:
i Minagâhet – Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Mariana Islands

https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2023-009	CDBG-DR Housing Supervisor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00 Per annum	February 7, 2023	February 22, 2023 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

SHAINA MARIE ONEAL

MILITARY OUTREACHES

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (Feb. 17, 2023) — Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 meet with Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, Feb. 12. Seabees discussed their ongoing projects and operational needs with Nicholson. NMCB Five provides general engineering, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, and civil support to Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint operational forces through planned deployments and crisis response. (U.S. Navy photo by Shaina O'Neal)

SHAINA MARIE ONEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (Feb. 17, 2023) — Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion5 meet with Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, Feb. 12. Seabees discussed their ongoing projects and operational needs with Nicholson. NMCB Five provides general engineering, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, and civil support to Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint operational forces through planned deployments and crisis response. (U.S. Navy photo by Shaina O'Neal)

SHAINA MARIE ONEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (Feb. 17, 2023) — Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, meets with the U.S. Veterans of Pohnpei Association, Feb. 13. During the meeting, veterans presented Nicholson with a traditional wood carving, recalled their memories in the military, and discussed their needs in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Shaina O'Neal)

TECH. SGT. JAOTOREY JOHNSON

Royal Australian Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and U.S. Air Force members transport a passenger for a contingency response training during Cope North 2023 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 14, 2023. Cope North 23 enables U.S. forces in the Indo-Pacific to operate from locations of varying levels of capacity and support, ensuring Airmen and aircrews are ready to respond across the spectrum of military operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jao'Torey Johnson)

TECH. SGT. JAOTOREY JOHNSON

Royal Australian Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and U.S. Air Force members pose for a photo following a contingency response training during Cope North 2023 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 14, 2023. The United States, Australia and Japan employ interoperability during Cope North 23 through agile, integrated generation of airpower from dispersed locations across the Indo-Pacific, demonstrating coalition airpower resilience and survivability in a contested environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jao'Torey Johnson)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
Homeless Prevention Coalition

The CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition would like to give notice that it will be conducting its General Membership Meeting on February 21, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at the Tanapag Youth Center.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Jacob Muna at (670)234-6866/9447 or via email at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2023-005

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: March 07, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase of Wildland Fire Truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)

The IFB packet is available on February 17, 2023, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be address in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan MP 96950; email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net or fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than 10:00 a.m. February 22, 2023.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eighteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Friday, February 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via zoom. Please see the link below.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order – Pro Tem Chair
2. Roll Call
3. Election of Officers
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
   a. April 7, 2022 Regular Board meeting
   b. August 17, 2022 Special Board meeting
   c. September 26, 2022 Special Board meeting
   d. October 13, 2022 Special Board meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair's Report
2. Committee Reports
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. LIA
   e. SICPP
   f. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Early Intervention Annual Performance Report
2. Early Head Start Disaster Assistance Grant 09ND000029 Low-Cost Extension Request
3. Head Start Disaster Assistance Grant 09ND000031 Low-Cost Extension Request
4. Accountability Report System Proposed Policy
5. Special Education Annual Performance Report
6. SY 2023-2024 K-12 Calendar
7. SY 2023-2024 Head Start/Early Head Start Calendars
8. SY 2023-2024 Early Intervention Calendar
9. Update Enforcement of the Slip Opinion Regarding the Certified Question
10. Certification & Licensure Matter
    a. CLO Report No. 2023-18-01
11. Ratification of Board and PSS Actions after January 11, 2023

VI. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] **Join Zoom Meeting**
https://zoom.us/j/96141839672?pwd=VlRGWTJYbnV2UzdHZ0tbi9MbFUydz099

Meeting ID: 961 4183 9672
Passcode: 458364

[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments, comments

[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

OPA: 5 audit recommendations to MRSO unresolved, 2 are resolved

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» OPA notes CHCC making progress with the unresolved recommendations for MRSO

The Office of the Public Auditor has found that its 2021 audit recommendation for the Medical Referral Services Office to negotiate an agreement with travel agencies to ensure cheaper airfare for patients and escorts remains unresolved.

OPA said that, based on that Dec. 20, 2022, information provided by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., OPA will follow up on CHCC's progress toward addressing the recommendation in the next reporting period.

OPA noted that on Nov. 11, 2021 they requested CHCC to provide a status update on the actions they have taken to address the recommendation, but CHCC did not respond.

OPA said that on Dec. 20, 2022, CHCC provided a copy of CHCC's memorandum pertaining to staff medical escorts for medical referral patients. OPA, however, pointed out that CHCC's memorandum does not address the recommendation.

OPA has tracked 36 unresolved audit and inspection recommendations to various government agencies as of Dec. 31, 2021, which includes seven new recommendations for CHCC.

OPA audit manager Dora Deleon Guerrero said that OPA tracked 36 audit and inspection recommendations from June 30, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2021, and that most of the unresolved recommendations are with the Department of Finance at 20.

With respect to CHCC, OPA said other unresolved recommendations to the Medical Referral Services Office are to develop a plan to meet with all stakeholders and establish proper internal controls to ensure affordable, effective, and equitable program; and collaborate with stakeholders to review previously executed contracts and/or agreements and renegotiate terms to ensure a cost-effective and equitable program.

Other unresolved recommendations are to implement standard operating procedures to ensure proper reconciliation of all vendor billings and payments; and implement standard operating procedures to ensure fair and equitable assessment of patient and escort eligibility in compliance with the requirements established in MRSO's laws and internal policies.

Recommendations that OPA determined as resolved are to seek additional assistance from the Office of the Attorney General for further proceedings pertaining to the collection of promissory notes payments, and implement SOP for all three MRSO offices to safeguard check inventory of all used and unused checks.

As to unresolved recommendation to develop a plan to meet with all stakeholders, OPA said that on June 15, 2022, CHCC met with the stakeholders and established proper internal controls by moving the accounting section under the direction of the CHCC chief financial officer and ensuring the adherence to Chapter 75-50 of the Medical Referral regulations and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

On Dec. 20, 2022, CHCC provided OPA with a memorandum regarding MRSO organization structure and a copy of the MRSO organizational chart.

OPA said that, based on that Dec. 20, 2022, information provided by CHCC, OPA will follow up on CHCC's progress toward addressing the recommendation in the next reporting period.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TURKEY

From page 1

by violent tremors shaking the four-story apartment building in a blue-collar neighborhood of the central Anatolian city.

Within 10 seconds, Taha, his mother, father and younger brother and sister were plunging downward with the building.

He found himself alone and trapped under tons of rubble, with waves of powerful aftershocks shifting the debris, squeezing his space amid the mangled mess of concrete and twisted steel. Taha took out his cellphone and began recording a final goodbye, hoping it would be discovered after his death.

"I think this is the last video I will ever shoot for you," he said from the tight space, his phone shaking in his hand as tremors rocked the collapsed building.

Showing remarkable resilience and bravery for a teenager believing he was speaking his last words, he lists his injuries and speaks of his regrets and the things he hopes to do if he emerges alive. During the video, the screams of other trapped people can be heard.

"We are still shaking. Death, my friends, comes at a time when one is least expecting it." says Taha, before reciting a Muslim prayer in Arabic.

"There are many things that I regret. May God forgive me of all my sins. If I get out of here alive today there are many things that I want to do. We are still shaking, yes. My hand isn't shaking, it's just the earthquake."

The teen goes on to recount that he believes his family are dead, along with many others in the city, and that he will-soon join them.

But Taha was destined to be among some of the first saved from the destroyed building. He was pulled from the rubble two hours later by neighbors and taken to an aunt's home.

Ten hours after the quake, his parents and siblings were also saved by local residents who dug at the wreck of the building with their bare hands and whatever tools they could find.

When The Associated Press spoke to the family on Thursday they were living in a government-provided tent, along with hundreds of thousands of others who survived the disaster that hit southern Turkey and north Syria, killing more than 43,000.

"This is my home," said Taha's mother Zeliha, 37, as she watched excavators digging up their old life and dumping it into heavy trucks.

"Boom-boom-boom, the building went down floor by floor on top of us," she recalled, describing how she had kept yelling her son's name while trapped under the debris in the hope that all five of them could die together as a family.

The Erdems' younger children—daughter Semanur, 13, and 9-year-old son Yigit Cinar—were sleeping in their parents' room when the quake hit.

But Taha could not hear his mother's calls through the mass of concrete. Nor could she hear her son's cries in the dark, and both believed the other was lying dead in the destroyed building.

It was only when Zeliha, her husband Ali, 47, a hospital cleaner, and the other children were taken to her sister's home that they realized Taha had survived.

DPS

From page 1

submitting the documents for Clement Bermudes' nomination to the Senate," he said.

When asked why Bermudes, Palacios said his administration believes that Bermudes has what it takes to put the department back together.

"We evaluated public candidates, but I think that Clement has the persona and the patience to work through the issues DPS is currently facing. DPS, for the past decade, has had its challenges, both internal and external, and we thought it would be good to bring in a new face with experience and credentials and the personality necessary to put the department back together," Palacios said.

The governor also explained that it took time to choose a nominee because there was no room for error as the department is one of the CNMI's most critical departments.

"There's been grumbling in the community about this department and rightly so. We hold it to one of the highest standards. It deals with the community's safety. I know people are wondering why it took the administration so long [to name a new DPS chief] but we needed to take our time to choose a leader that our people are going to be confident in," he said.

Moving forward, Palacios said the administration is finalizing their nomination for the Department of Fire and Emergency and Medical Services' commissioner position.

"We're finalizing that, we've got several names," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Bermudes is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel. He was recently promoted dean of the Northern Marianas College Academic Program and Services. He used to be the chair of NMC's Criminal Justice Department.

The previous DPS commissioner was Robert Guerrero. The transition team assigned to look into DPS gave a scathing report of the department, saying DPS has been suffering from low morale under Guerrero's leadership.

"The Department of Public Safety was under the command of commissioner Guerrero for almost eight years. Based on the transition team's interviews with DPS personnel, both past and present, the general disposition at DPS was one of low morale, brought on by retaliation, nepotism and cronyism, political discrimination, micromanagement, and training deficiencies," the report states.

CUC

From page 1

Act, I write to inform you of my administration's next steps concerning CUC and to assure you of our commitment to correct CUC's persistent violations that threaten public health and the environment," he said.

In his letter, Palacios said that one of CUC's current challenges is the lack of a qualified executive director, among other issues, which is why he wants to replace Camacho.

"Among CUC's numerous challenges are the lack of a qualified executive director, troubling management practices, and chronic noncompliance under the leadership of the current executive director, and the lack of quorum among board members. The lack of quorum impedes the CUC's ability to make policy decisions, set appropriate rate structures, or approve contracts for essential services," he said.

"I am committed to appointing board members and who understand the importance of vetting and hiring a qualified executive director who will prioritize improvements in the delivery of utility services," said Palacios.

In addition to poor management, Palacios believes that a change in leadership will also rebuild trust in CUC and ensure that the department reaches compliance.

"It is my firm position that a change in leadership is needed at CUC as soon as possible. The incumbent executive director, Mr. Gary Camacho, meets neither the requirements in the stipulated orders nor the requirements in CNMI law. His contract is due to expire on or about March 26, 2023. I strongly oppose any contract extension or renewal," said the governor.

Former governor Ralph DLG Torres petitioned the federal court to approve a waiver of qualifications so that Camacho could be appointed CUC executive director during his time. The federal court approved a joint stipulation in which the U.S. government did not approve of Camacho's appointment, but would not object to it.

The governor stated that he also opposes any continuation of the waiver for the CUC executive director position and he does not support the previously approved stipulation.

Palacios said he is confident that CUC's executive director position will attract qualified candidates.

OAG

From page 2

full range of OAG duties and responsibilities, from criminal prosecution to consumer protection to administrative and civil division investigations.

Having a statute that fully sets for the AGID's law enforcement functions for the office will protect the integrity of the OAG and its constitutional mission, Manibusan said.

The AG also told Flores that, in order to meet their mandate for prosecution of violations of Commonwealth laws, the OAG must be able to hire staff without hindrance from outside agencies.

"This has not been the case and has frustrated our efforts in hiring, investigating and prosecuting criminal and civil cases," Manibusan said.

The attorney general attached in his letters to Babauta and Flores the OAG's draft legislation that was previously presented to then-Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and then-22nd House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

The AG also attached three bills that the OAG drafted and forwarded to the 22nd Legislature for consideration, for Babauta's and Flores' review and reference. The draft bills are the proposed amendments to the Government Liability Act, amendments to the definition of dangerous weapon and serious bodily harm, and requiring strict conditions of bail.

Manibusan also brought to Babauta's and Flores' attention the importance of adequately funding the OAG and the problems posed by the Public Law 22-22, the current appropriation and budget authority for the Commonwealth government.

He pointed out that the appropriation for the OAG for fiscal year 2023 does not appropriate any money to the OAG for operations and zero funded necessary attorney positions.

For personnel, Manibusan said they need $306,460 to fill four attorney positions.

For three assistant attorney general positions at the Civil Division and one AAG position at the Criminal Division, $76,615 in annual salaries and benefits are needed, for a total of $306,460.

The total airfare for the four attorneys is $7,600, while their relocation cost is $20,000.

For operations, the OAG needs $108,518 to pay vendors, including utility and phone bills, for fiscal year 2023.

Settlement being explored in discrimination suit filed vs IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and a former pit manager at the IPI Resort and Casino are looking into the possibility of a settlement in the ongoing discrimination lawsuit the ex-employee filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In a stipulation filed by both IPI and former pit manager Stephen Abonita regarding the pending discrimination suit the latter had filed, the parties stated that both sides are interested in exploring a settlement. In line with this, they have asked that upcoming proceedings be adjourned until after the settlement conference set for March 14.

"The parties are both interested in exploring whether this matter can be resolved and a settlement conference is scheduled for March 14. In order to fully explore settlement prior to incurring the time and cost of briefing and arguing IPI's summary judgment motion, the parties desire to adjourn the briefing and hearing until after that settlement conference," the agreement states.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona has since granted the parties' stipulation.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, Abonita, a Philippine national previously employed by IPI as a casino pit supervisor, filed a discrimination lawsuit against his former employer, alleging that IPI paid him significantly less than his Caucasian and Chinese fellow pit managers because he is a Filipino. A pit manager typically supervises the operation of the casino floor.

Abonita, through his attorney, Bruce Berline, also claims that IPI required him to work overtime but failed to compensate him for it and retaliated against him for joining protests against the company alongside his fellow Filipinos.

The plaintiff is demanding a jury trial and wants the court to order IPI to pay him back pay, front pay, emotional distress pay, punitive damages, and other relief the court may deem necessary.

According to the lawsuit, the two causes of action in this case are discrimination and breach of contract.

Berline said that IPI discriminated against his client by paying him less than his fellow supervisors and breached his employee contract by requiring him to come into work 30 minutes earlier than his schedule and not compensating him for those hours.

Saipan Municipal Council forms ordinance to create Saipan Municipal Charter Commission

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council has enacted proposed ordinance 10-02-2010 to establish the Saipan Municipal Charter Commission authored by then-council chair Ramon "RB" Camacho and approved by then-Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, on Jan. 8, 2010.

The municipal ordinance, according to council chair Marian DLG Tudela, will comply with and implement the underlying intent of the applicable provisions of the Constitution. The proponents stated that the Commonwealth Supreme Court, in Commonwealth vs. Tinian Gaming Commission, had previously ruled, "It is important…that each [senatorial] district, in enacting local laws by municipal ordinance, ensure that local laws enacted do not encroach upon or adversely impact upon those interests relating to the entire Commonwealth."

The task of the commission is necessary in order to secure the benefits or participatory form of local governance, which affords the best public services possible to the local residents envisioned in the Constitution to be carried out on an equitable basis on a decentralized administrative arrangement, Tudela said.

The council and Camacho said the intent of the ordinance is to establish a local governance system that not only serves but also advances the general welfare, health, happiness, safety and aspirations of both present and future residents and citizens in the municipality through direct and active participation of the people in an open and transparent process of governance at the municipal level.

The purpose of the ordinance, Tudela and Camacho said, is to provide the people of Saipan and Northern Islands the opportunity to direct the course of local governance that fully complies and comports with the intent of the Constitution by delineating the responsibility, duty and function of the agencies of local government, including the form, method or incorporation, powers of elected officials and financing of the agencies of local government. Furthermore, the charter ordinance will present the municipal charter before the local electorates in the next general election or any special election held for the purpose or incidental.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council present Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho with ordinance 10-02-2010 to establish the Saipan Municipal Charter Commission.

Tudela said the council believes the municipal jurisdiction is relevant and falls within the scope of local matter of a predominately local nature with application and effect confined to the municipality of Saipan.

They asserted the ordinance relates exclusively to local matters in the Third Senatorial District affecting local government operations, programs, revenue generation, appropriation and expenditure of funds, including the delivery of efficient, effective and responsive public services.

"It is the intent and purpose of this municipal ordinance for the charter commission to incorporate among its task orders and activities and not to be restricted or limited to solely define and delineate the form, method of incorporation, powers, elected officials and financing of the existing agencies of local government or new agencies of local government intended to supplement or replace the agencies created in the constitution," the municipality officials said.

The primary task of the commission is to undertake the necessary needs assessment and or conduct studies and perform review on the administration, management, and operations of the agencies of local government as prescribed in the Constitution, statute, or municipal ordinance on municipal government, he said.

Tudela said there shall be 18 members to be appointed to the commission but nine will be appointed by Camacho, to be confirmed by the municipal council, while the remaining nine will be appointed by the presiding officer of the council.

In the ordinance, the mayor and council chair stated that the operational funding for the activities of the commission may be incorporated in the mayor's annual budget or supplemental appropriations.

The commission, they added, is also authorized to apply for federal assistance in undertaking its enumerated task as approved by the mayor of Saipan. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
CPA-RFP-007-23
GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES & REPAIRS

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from qualified firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Generator Preventive Maintenance Services and Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport facilities.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The successful proposer will be awarded 2 years to perform the services with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the sole discretion of CPA.

The proposal package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning February 21, 2023.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if it's not in the best interest of CPA.

Proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00 P.M., March 23, 2023** to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BACKHOES AND TRENCHER FOR THE ISLANDS OF SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of five (5) backhoes and one (1) trencher for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to assist with daily operations for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems.

This project is grant funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs (DOI-OIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-23-016, Supply and Delivery of Backhoes and Trencher for the Islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota)"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2023**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Saipan Eagles Club 'adopts' Gualo Rai basketball court

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club and the Saipan Maga'Lahi Eagles Club have adopted a place to maintain—the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Brought about by Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho's ongoing effort to involve the community in the betterment of its villages, the Saipan Eagles Club collectively and officially presented their plans last Friday to maintain and adopt the basketball court.

In attendance were Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan), Rep. Malcolm Omar (Ind-Saipan), Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), special assistant for youth affairs Delbert Pua, Saipan Mayor's Office staff, and Eagle club members.

Maga'Lahi Eagles Club president Dennis Cortez thanked everyone in attendance and thanked Camacho for entrusting them with the basketball court.

"As our organizational motto states: "Service through Strong Brotherhood" we envisioned that through this stewardship, we would be able to serve the community while we are strengthening our young organization here [on] Saipan," said Cortez. "We cannot promise more than what we can provide but rest assured that we will do our best to beautify, maintain, improve this facility, and above all, to make it functional and available to the community. Planning will be made after this event and will surely share it with everyone. Again, our sincere thanks to all of you for the trust and for giving us the opportunity to serve our Saipan community."

Group photo of those in attendance at the second "Adopt-A-Place" ceremony that was also attended by Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho and some members of the 23rd CNMI Legislature last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court. LEIGH GASES

Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club president Raquel Floyd shared Cortez' sentiments and addressed those in attendance by saying, "Thank you for allowing us to adopt this place. I know that at this time, volunteerism is very much important and I promise you that our organization is here to serve."

Camacho reciprocated the Eagles Club's gratitude for their initiative to adopt the basketball court. "It really touched me that…nonprofit organizations are now starting to see the value of this program that benefits the community. It really shows that you care for this community. As a mayor for this municipality, I'll admit that I need help. I cannot do it alone. I need to stretch out my arms and seek the help of organizations, the business community, and others, to step up to the plate and consider adopting a place."

The Adopt-A-Place program under the Saipan Mayor's Office was initiated by the Guam Army National Guard. Camacho said the program is meant to empower people to be responsible and have a hand in the betterment of their community. The program is open to any groups—nonprofits, religions, ethnic groups, or others.

The Guam Army National Guard adopted the Commissioner Joaquin S. Tudela Community Park in San Vicente last month.

Founded in 2021, the Saipan MagaLahi Eagles Club is a club of the Fraternal Order of Eagles or TFOE, the first fraternal socio-civic organization in the Philippines whose goal is to nurture brotherhood and serve the community, while the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club is a non-profit all-women socio-civic organization.

Four days of miracle healing crusade

Announcing the first of what is being planned as an annual event, the Victory Chapel Saipan church will be hosting a Miracle Healing Crusade on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza on Feb. 23-26, 2023, each night starting at 7pm.

The event's outreach coordinator, Alexander Depich, said the islandwide event is focused on praying for anyone who is sick, and believes that God can do miracles. Depich said he is excited to host this event on Saipan. "I have seen God do miracles. And my message and encouragement to everyone is to come and experience the power of God in healing.

"I know healing isn't just limited to the physical, but also applies to the mind and emotions. I want to invite the community to come and receive God's healing touch for your life," said Depich.

One of the church's members, Roughson Langu from Chalan Kanoa, shared that he had been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, and was given only a couple of months to live, but it was after prayers at one of these events that he was completely healed, and is to this day alive and is completely cancer-free. Langu also hopes members of the community would come out to the event.

Pastor Dion Jones from Guam will be flying in as a guest speaker and will be the one praying for the sick at the nightly event. There are no daytime sessions, except on Sunday morning where the session will begin at 10:30am in the Victory Chapel building in Chalan Piao next to the Bluesky Supermarket. All the nightly events will be held at the Marianas Business Plaza.

The event is completely free. For more information, contact 670-484-2015. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2023

Opening date: February 20, 2023 Closing date: March 10, 2023

Location: SAIPAN	SALARY
Position(s): (1) ARFF General Maintenance I	PL 3/1 to 3/12 ($8.01/hr. to $13.70/hr.)
(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr. to $15.85/hr.)
(1) Lease Compliance Assistant	PL 14/1 to 14/12 ($13.70/hr. to $23.42/hr.)
(1) Information Systems Specialist	PL 15/1 to 15/12 ($14.38/hr. to $24.60/hr.)
Location: PORT OF SAIPAN	**SALARY**
Position(s): (2) Vessel Traffic Controller	PL 4/1 to 4/12 ($8.41/hr. to $14.38/hr.)
Location: TINIAN	**SALARY**
Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer	PL 7/1 to 7/12 ($9.73/hr. to $16.65/hr.)
(1) Custodial-I	PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr. to $12.42/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport no later than ***5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 10, 2023.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on February 23, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes from January 26th, 2022
II. Public Comment (s)
III. Committee Reports
  a. Committee on Awards
  b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
  c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
  d. Committee on Program and Development
  e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs
IV. Administrator's Report
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
  1. Proposal to increase the grant-in-aid for on-island and online recipients the match the award of off-island recipients
  2. Discussion to temporarily suspend awards for advanced degrees.
  3. Proposal to extend the financial assistance to 3 years for recipients pursuing an associate's degree within the healthcare field.
VII. New Business
  1. Winter/Spring 2023 application status
  2. Expiration terms of board members
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Miscellaneous Matters
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

/s/ Oscar M. Babauta,
Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Power service interruption on Feb. 23

There will be a power service interruption on Feb. 23, 2023, in Sadog Tasi, from 9am to 11am, and on Thursday, Feb. 23 in San Vicente from 9am to 1pm.

FEB. 23, SADOG TASI, 9am to 11am

■ Area Affected: As Mahetog and partial areas of Capitol Hill

■ Purpose: To perform line clearing (seven spans) of vegetation near the overhead primary lines in Lower Base (behind the former Rudolfo's Pizza)

■ Traffic light affected: As Terlaje, Dandan (near Shell), and San Vicente (near Iglecia ni Cristo)

■ Water well(s) affected: Seven wells (SQ-4, SQ-5, SQ-7, SQ-9, SQ-10, SQ-11, SQ-150) and 2 booster stations (Maui Sump and Maui Booster); Upper Navy Hill, Chalan Galaide, Upper Miha Housing, Chinatown and As Falape

■ Wastewater facility affected: None

FEB. 23, SAN VICENTE, 9am to 1pm

■ Area affected: San Vicente (Ming Yang Supermarket, Lucky D-2 Market, Zori Zori Gift Shop, Katupat Drive, Gancho Pl., Aludu Pl., and Hotdu Dr.)

■ Purpose: The line crew will perform systems maintenance by replacing a rotted primary wood power pole to concrete pole along Isa Dr., adjacent to the Ming Yang Supermarket.

■ Traffic light affected: As Terlaje, Dandan (near Shell), and San Vicente (near Iglecia ni Cristo)

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater facility affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Free Guam PTAC webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars this February. Webinars are held every Wednesday (unless otherwise noted), from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom. Zoom links are emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the webinar.

■ Feb. 22, 2023 – GovGuam Procurement – The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

■ Friday, Feb. 24, 2023 – Contract Opportunities w/USDA – Dr. Giorgio "G" Ra'Shadd III, DBA, Small Business coordinator Contracts Management Division Food and Nutrition Service will discuss contracting opportunities for small businesses.

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php ***(PR)***

UOG

The Pohnpeian Student Organization competes in the Tug of War portion of the University of Guam President's Cup Competition on Feb. 14, 2023. The event is part of events leading up to Charter Day on March 2, 2023.

Public invited to UOG Charter Day on March 2

The public is invited to the University of Guam's annual Charter Day celebration on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

The festivities will begin at 9am with the opening ceremony in the Center Courtyard on the UOG campus and will continue throughout the day.

As the largest annual community event at UOG, Charter Day typically drew several thousand attendees on campus before the pandemic.

"Charter Day gives the university a chance to build stronger ties with our island community, spotlight the talents of our students, faculty, and staff, and showcase the many educational opportunities UOG offers," UOG president Thomas W. Krise said.

With the theme "UOG Forward," Charter Day will feature an exciting lineup of entertainment and activities for people of all ages, including campus tours, cultural performances, live music, food trucks, raffle prizes, and more.

This will be the 55th Charter Day celebration, marking the anniversary of the signing of the charter that renamed the Territorial College of Guam to the University of Guam in 1968.

For more information about Charter Day and ways to participate, visit www.uog.edu/charterday. ***(UOG)***

GCA'S TOP PERFORMERS

GCA

Grace Christian Academy would like to congratulate the GCA Junior High Math Court team, composed of Hans Ordas (6th grade), Yu Xuan Dianna Zheng (8th grade), and Min Su Andy Kim (8th grade), for winning first place in the CNMI Math Court Monthly Qualifying Competition on Jan. 21. In addition, Hans Ordas won first place in his grade division, while Min Su Andy Kim won third place in his grade division.

GCA

Grace Christian Academy would like to congratulate the GCA High School Math Court team, composed of Jeremy Woorim Lee (10th grade), Andrew Jeren Nunez (11th grade), Jiahao Yang (10th grade) for winning second place in the CNMI Math Court Monthly Qualifying Competition on Feb. 4. In addition, Jiahao Yang placed fifth overall in the 10th grade division, while Andrew Nunez placed fifth overall in the 11th grade division.

GCA

Grace Christian Academy would like to congratulate the GCA National Junior Speech and Debate Association and National Speech and Debate Association students Eunice Pagaduan, TaeHee Kim, Qi Han Wang, Breanna Lopez, Jose Bonto, Hans Ordas, and Austin Yumul, who received many ribbons and top placements during the most recent qualifying competition. GCA also thanks Grace Duran, NJSDA/NSDA coordinator and coach, and Susan Pajarillaga, Math Court coordinator and coach, for their dedication and guidance.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
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Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (01/18/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
  A. Investigator's Vacant Position
  B. FSMB's 2023 Annual Meeting – May 4-6, 2023 - Minneapolis, Minnesota
    1. Delegate Scholarships – 3 per Member Board (Dateline: March 15, 2023)
VIII. Investigator's Report - None
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
    1. Appointments of Cabinet Members, Agency Directors, and Board Members
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  A. Proposed Telehealth and Telemedicine Regulations
  B. Proposed Amendments for § 185-10-2600 - Dentists, Dental Assistants, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-23-014

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to restore pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines, sewerlines and customers' water service connections. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable), after registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-014, Island Wide Road Restoration"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other security acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 10, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne C. Ogumoro Acting Water & Wastewater Division Manager – via email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Everyone needs to get a grip regarding the 'spy balloons' saga

It looked like something out of a Hollywood sci-fi flick: the White House press secretary assuring a roomful of reporters that there is "no indication of aliens." Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre had to make that startling pronouncement this week because a top general had earlier declined to rule out the possibility that extraterrestrials are behind a string of mysterious objects the U.S. military has shot out of the sky lately.

Everyone needs to get a grip. The sudden appearance of these objects doesn't mean some global (or otherworldly) power is suddenly swarming America. It's more likely the military is seeing them now because it's looking for them in the wake of the incursion by the Chinese spy balloon earlier this month. The most recent ones could yet turn out to be benign. Should more of them appear, President Joe Biden should carefully consider whether this shoot-first-and-ask-questions-later approach is really the best one—and he should make sure it's not just a knee-jerk reaction to predictable Republican bluster.

The strange saga began at the end of January, when a 200-foot balloon carrying a large equipment array traversed from Alaska to the northwestern U.S. to the east coast over eight days. The U.S. military shot the object down off the South Carolina coast Feb. 4. While the Chinese government continues to claim, improbably, that it was a scientific balloon that blew off course, the recovered equipment indicates it was designed for spying.

Then, over three days starting last Friday, the U.S. shot down three additional flying objects over Alaska, Canada and Lake Huron. Those vessels remain more mysterious than the first one. Recovery operations were still underway this week, hampered by rough terrain and water.

There is a not-unreasonable explanation for the differing responses to the first and subsequent incidents: The Chinese balloon was floating far above U.S. air lanes and was large enough that an overland shootdown could have endangered lives. The three subsequent crafts are described as much smaller, and were positioned low enough to pose hazards to commercial flights.

That's all well and good, but there is something unnerving about a seemingly sudden policy of just immediately firing missiles at mysterious objects, especially since none of the last three showed evidence of spy capabilities. Suppose one of them had carried a chemical or biological agent.

Biden deserves the benefit of the doubt in his handling of the issue, and his announcement of a task force to study all these incidents is valid. But he must ensure his actions are based on rational military and technological advice, and not the GOP's heckling campaign—which would have happened no matter what actions he took. A time of potential threats flying overhead is no time to indulge those who are just trying to score political points.

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IT WON'T BE LONG NOW.
BEFORE WHAT?
CANDIDATES ANNOUNCE THEIR 2028 CAMPAIGNS.
NIKKI HALEY STARTS 2024 WHITE HOUSE BID
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2023 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/UAS

Nikki Haley calls herself the GOP's 'new generation' leader, but it's still Trump's party

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

"New" isn't necessarily better. Sometimes it's not even new.

Rarely have those truisms been more true than in the last two weeks, when Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Nikki Haley offered themselves as exemplars of "a new generation" of Republican leadership.

Sanders, the truth-challenged former Trump press secretary turned Arkansas governor, did it Feb. 7 in the Republican rebuttal to President Biden's State of the Union speech. Three times she said "it's time" for new leadership, and she noted that, at 40, she was half as old as Biden, the nation's oldest president.

A week later, 51-year-old Haley, former South Carolina governor and one-time Trump critic turned loyal Cabinet member, became the Republican Party's second candidate for president, declaring herself a new-generation leader in a video Tuesday and at a campaign rally Wednesday.

"America is not past our prime. It's just that our politicians are past theirs," she told her supporters, in what was one of the biggest applause lines at her announcement event in Charleston, S.C.

The ostensible target for both women was 80-year-old Biden. Neither mentioned that their former boss, the only other Republican candidate for president, is, 76—Biden's contemporary. Also unspoken? Donald Trump's very name (OK, Haley mentioned him once, in passing, for having picked her as his United Nations ambassador).

And that's the problem. When Republicans only implicitly distance themselves from Trump, avoiding even saying his name, it's a giveaway: These self-proclaimed new generation Republicans offer the same old Trumpism.

Age has little to do with the party's problems. Consider that its younger stars include Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, 48; Elise Stefanik of New York, 38; and Matt Gaetz of Florida, 40, far-right Trump sycophants all. What the party—and country—sorely needs are Republican leaders of any age who will explicitly disavow Trump and all he stands for: undisguised authoritarianism; election denial; racial, cultural and political divisiveness; global isolation (except when it comes to murderous dictators, especially those willing to invest in the family grifting, er, business).

It shouldn't be hard for any American to condemn the only president in history who refused to accept the voters' verdict and then sought to block the peaceful transfer of power—unless you're a Republican politician.

About 7 in 10 Republicans tell pollsters that Trump has been a positive force for the party, and another poll showed him with "a lock" on about 30% of likely voters in the 2024 Republican primaries and caucuses—perhaps enough for the nomination in a crowded race.

If renouncing Trump is political suicide in the short term for Republican pols, in the longer term, failing to do so is likely to be suicidal for the entire party.

Trumpism has already been a loser in the 2018, 2020 and 2022 elections. What's more, as Haley pointedly noted in her announcements, Republicans have lost the popular vote in seven of the last eight presidential contests (another of her implicit-only digs at Trump, the popular-vote loser in the most recent two of those elections).

Yet neither Haley nor Sanders suggested anything resembling a fresh path, let alone a policy agenda, in their high-profile appearances.

Sanders was especially Trumpy, shockingly so given the blame accorded the former president for the party's disappointing midterm election results. It was her assignment, in the modern tradition of State of the Union addresses, to criticize Biden and the Democrats. But she did so in culture warriors' code, as if she were speaking only to pro-Trumpers in red states and not to a national audience including the swing voters her party so desperately needs.

Sanders boasted that in her first acts as governor she'd signed orders banning "CRT" and "indoctrination" in schools and eliminating "the derogatory term 'Latinx'" from state documents. (As my colleague Gustavo Arellano wrote, Latinx is not derogatory, and making it a wedge issue to appeal to some Latino voters is "the last, best chance for conservatives who have no other ideas.")

In a feat of projection, she blamed Democrats for the nation's culture wars and claimed "every day we are told we must partake in their rituals, salute their flags and worship their false idols." Huh?

And Sanders had the gall to damn Biden as "the first man to

See HALEY on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A school threat. Another reminder we are living in the age of gun trauma

By ANITA CHABRIA
Los Angeles Times

The call came at 7 a.m., before I had enough coffee in me to process it: A recorded message from the principal of my daughter's high school, informing us of a credible threat.

There wasn't too much detail, just that the police had contacted her about a Facebook post that named the school. Classes would go on as usual, with extra security.

Now what? I thought.

We can't pretend anymore that a kid posting on social media about shooting his peers is a joke or that it couldn't happen in our child's school—or anywhere, for that matter.

Do I send her anyway, because a day of lost school is hard to make up? What would I do if I told her to go and something happened?

"I don't know that other generations have had to ask parents and kids to make these decisions," Erika Felix said when I told her about my dilemma. She's a professor of clinical psychology at UC Santa Barbara and studies how families are handling gun violence.

Parents all over are trapped between providing reassurance and normality, she said, and "potentially risking regretting that decision the rest of your life," though she points out that, statistically, mass shootings remain rare.

Still, Generation Z—the recipients of that parental balancing act as well as holders of the knowledge that statistical odds don't prevent you from becoming a statistic—is suffering from "this chronic low-level hypervigilance," Felix said. "It's kind of automatic to them that they look for the escape route."

We need to stop thinking of gun violence as a few seconds or minutes of hot metal finding purchase in flesh. I mourn for those who have died, this week and every week. I am selfishly grateful not to be touched by the unbearable sorrow of losing a child, a sibling, a parent, a friend.

But we are all victims of gun violence, every single one of us. It's more than an epidemic, or a public health crisis. It's personal, and I'm guessing many of you feel it as much as I do. Why are we centering gun rights over our right not to die, not to bury our children? Even more pervasive, over our right to not be afraid?

In this absolutely messed up reality of politicized death in the United States, we have had 72 incidents of gun violence since Jan. 1, including more than three dozen attacks that qualify as mass shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive, which tracks this grim toll.

That is not a misprint. More than 5,000 people have died from all types of gun violence this year in the United States, and we haven't even hit spring.

In the latest Stress in America study by the American Psychological Assn., 73% said mass shootings are a significant source of stress. Women of color in particular cited both mass shootings and gun violence in general as adding stress to their lives. That means lost sleep, an inability to concentrate, depression, anxiety—the documented mental health crisis of living with the undertow of brutality.

Felix compares gun violence to a pebble dropped in still water. We can see the immediate concentric circles of its impact, but the ripples will extend all the way to the shore, harder and harder to see but still there. Even if we escape a gun death, we can't escape the effects of so much murder and pain on our society, and on ourselves.

We are living in the age of gun trauma, with the fear that we or someone we love will be shot as they sit in math class, pick up a carton of eggs at the grocery store or watch a blockbuster in a theater.

Or maybe the bullet will come from a gun wielded by a domestic partner—usually a man—who conflates love with control and abuse. About 70 women are shot and killed every month by an intimate partner.

Or maybe during a robbery for our phone, or if we say the wrong thing to the wrong person, or because someone hates the color of our skin.

We are afraid because it does happen, because the threat is real. Because there are more guns in America than Americans.

Tuesday was the five-year anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Seventeen murdered, seventeen wounded by bullets. Thousands traumatized for life.

Monday, the day before that horrific marker of our indifference to children's lives, three young people were killed by a gunman at Michigan State University. Five wounded. Thousands traumatized for life.

Last week, I was in Half Moon Bay, where a gunman killed five co-workers and injured another at two mushroom farms where he worked. I spoke with Rocio Avila who had just come from the parking lot of her daughter's school.

Since the shooting, her eldest has been experiencing severe anxiety that a shooter will come for her—so much so that she needs to know her mom is nearby, there if a bullet-spewing boogeyman arrives. So Avila had been spending her days sitting in her car out front, not sure how else to help her child.

It is a powerlessness many of us feel, made infuriating by a Supreme Court apparently so dismissive of its own intellect (and ours) that its conservative majority believes everything worth deciding was finalized by white men in the era of muskets and slavery—an originalist mentality as self-serving as it is cruel.

In Texas this month, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals used that approach by ruling that even those under restraining orders because they are accused of domestic violence have a right to keep their guns.

The decision came in a case in which guns were removed from a man who was involved in five separate shootings during a single month—all during a period when he was not legally allowed to possess guns because of a restraining order.

I asked University of California, Berkeley constitutional law expert Erwin Chemerinsky if there was any chance of meaningful gun reform with that kind of judicial backdrop.

"I think it depends on what you define as 'meaningful,'" he responded.

Chemerinsky believes the government will be able to continue to require licenses for weapons and prohibit those convicted of felonies from having them, though even that is facing legal challenges. We may also be able to keep guns out of "sensitive places," such as airports, schools and courthouses.

Maybe we'll be able to prohibit "particularly dangerous weapons," he said. But he's not convinced that will hold for AR-15s and large-capacity magazines, bans on which are also being litigated.

He said a lot of "gun regulation is going to be struck down," meaning this may get worse before it gets better.

But I'm not giving up hope, and like so many others, I am not giving up the fight for common-sense gun regulation. As a parent, I don't have that right.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

President's Day paradox

"When one side only of a story is heard and often repeated, the human mind becomes impressed with it insensibly…."

—George Washington (POTUS #1)

Doesn't that sound like an effect of Trump's (POTUS 45) continuous repeating of the "big lie" about winning the election which he has repeated over and over?

Throughout my elementary school and high school years (1956 to 1967) we celebrated Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12 and George Washington's birthday on Feb. 22. Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12, 1809, was never a federal holiday, but Washington's birthday was. In 1971 President Nixon declared Feb. 22 President's Day. It started as George Washington Day on Feb. 22, 1800, to celebrate America's first president the year after he died. George Washington was born on Feb.11, 1731, according to the Julian calendar. In 1752 Britain and its colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar, which moved Washington's birthday to Feb. 22, 1732. Now all U.S. Presidents are honored on the third Monday of February (since 1971) which this year is Feb. 20, 2023. Happy President's Day to all but POTUS 45.

Both Washington (POTUS #1) and Lincoln (POTUS #16) were known for their honesty and integrity. George Washington is famous for being commander of the Continental Army in the American Revolution and subsequently "Father of His Country." He did not say the famous line, "I cannot tell a lie, father. I cut the cherry tree down with my little hatchet" that appeared in a fifth edition of a biography written years after Washington passed away. The author put the incident in his book because people wanted to know about Washington's childhood, and we still don't. But it has become part of American folklore.

Abraham Lincoln is said to have walked miles to return change to a customer in a store where he worked and miles to return a book to a library. Lincoln was called 'Honest Abe" because he "worked diligently to maintain his reputation as an honest politician and lawyer." Throughout his life Lincoln practiced honesty with all his clients and people he worked with.

It is quite ironic that President Nixon's (POTUS 36) famous line is, "I'm not a crook," where he's lying about the Watergate Hotel break-in scandal. Then he resigned from presidential office, the only U.S. president to ever do so, since he knew he would be impeached while in office. But he is included as President to be honored on President's Day, which he set up. Also extremely ironic and a living ongoing American tragedy is D.J. Trump (POTUS 45) who some informed sources say told over 30,000 lies during his time in public view. He is known for serial lying and a total lack of integrity. He has been impeached twice and continues to push his "big lie" to the American people and the world. One has to wonder how many will celebrate him on President's Day?

"Be with a leader when he is right, stay with him when he is still right, but leave him when he is wrong."

—Honest Abe Lincoln, (POTUS 16). POTUS means President of the United States.

Joey Connolly
China Town, Saipan

HALEY

From page 8

surrender his presidency to a woke mob that can't even tell you what a woman is"—again, huh?—when she's silent on Trump's incitement of an actual mob that assaulted Congress to try to overturn Biden's election.

Haley was all breezy platitudes, without Sanders' bile. Yet Haley's Reaganite optimism rings hollow without exorcising the Trumpian negativity. At Haley's rally, the prayer was offered by Pastor John Hagee, an 82-year-old right-wing televangelist whose record of alleged antisemitism and homophobia caused Sen. John McCain to reject his presidential endorsement in 2008, and she was introduced by Rep. Ralph Norman, her 69-year-old fellow South Carolinian who texted the Trump White House to impose "Marshall Law!" to block Biden's inauguration.

In 2016 Haley backed two Trump rivals, condemned him for refusing to publicly oppose the Ku Klux Klan and said he represented "everything I taught my children not to do in kindergarten." Then she became his U.N. ambassador. After the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, she lamented, "His actions since Election Day will be judged harshly by history." But nine months later, she told the Wall Street Journal, "We need him in the Republican Party. I don't want us to go back to the days before Trump."

Last year, she said she wouldn't run for president if Trump did. But now she's doing so. She's a first-rate flip-flopper but not, it appears, an anti-Trump Republican.

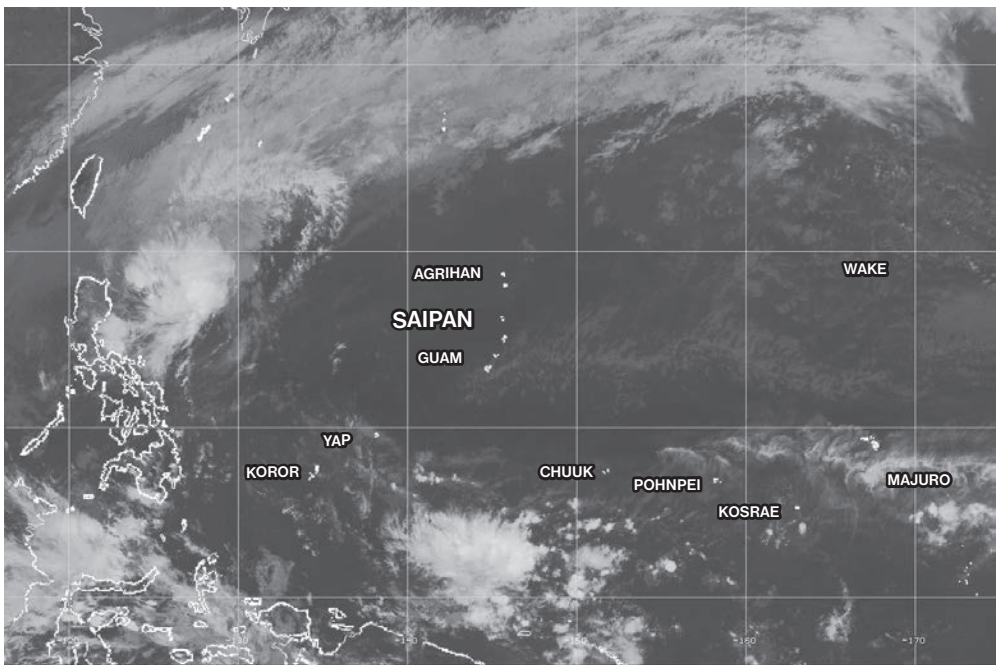
And that's too bad. But nothing new.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
85º 74º	85º 74º	86º 74º	86º 74º	86º 74º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly sunny. Radar imagery is showing several blink and you will miss it showers in our eastern waters. Altimetry shows 9 to 11 feet to our far west. Ritidian is showing 7 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	77° / 61°
Beijing	Cloudy	41° / 24°
Hong Kong	Sunny	67° / 58°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	79° / 72°
London	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 41°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 49°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 73°
Melbourne	Cloudy	73° / 57°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 67°
New York	Cloudy	60° / 41°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	43° / 33°
Paris	Fog	56° / 45°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	46° / 35°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 62°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	39° / 21°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	47° / 31°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	62° / 46°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:22 AM	7:24 PM	-
Wednesday	8:05 AM	8:22 PM	-
Thursday	8:47 AM	9:18 PM	-
Friday	9:27 AM	10:13 PM	-
Saturday	10:07 AM	11:07 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:24 AM	Low Tide	-0.58
9:05 AM	High Tide	1.90
2:51 PM	Low Tide	0.75
8:08 PM	High Tide	1.99

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	1, 4, 5, 7
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 13, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7

ROTA TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

GUAM TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Godfather's Bar & Grill opens for lunch

Godfather's Bar & Grill is giving island foodies an offer they can't refuse.

The Garapan landmark famous for being the go-to watering hole for night owls is now serving lunch with some variants of its bar food making it to the lunch menu.

Owner Scott Dottino said Godfather's Bar & Grill began serving lunch last month or at the start of the year due to insistent public demand.

"A lot of people requested it and there's not a lot of places on Saipan that offer sandwiches so we're focusing on sandwiches for lunch."

Starting at $12.95, Dottino and company's lunch menu includes grilled footlong hotdog; slider burger; ham or turkey panini with your choice of provolone, swiss, or American cheese; bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich on white or wheat bread; Philly cheesesteak with peppers and onions; burgers with your choice of cheddar, swiss, or American cheese; ham or turkey wrap; chicken parmesan sandwich; and beef and chicken quesadilla with French dip with au jus. They also offer fresh green salad with either grilled chicken or tuna for $12.95.

Godfather's Bar & Grill's new lunch offerings come with free bottomless Marianas Coffee or iced tea. It also comes with either a side of fries or salad.

Pizza is also served all the time—a 14-inch cheese pizza is $13 and an 18-inch cheese pizza is $17.

"We try to make sandwiches that you can't get anywhere else on the island and we have a bunch of more sandwich ideas coming," said Dottino.

As for drinks, aside from the bottomless Marianas Coffee and iced tea for those getting items from the lunch menu, Godfather's Bar & Grill's usual beverage offerings are still available for lunch, including most varieties of draft beer.

He also said Godfather's Bar & Grill has been getting a good mix of local and tourists since it started doing lunch.

Dottino said they actually served lunch when they first opened 18 years ago, but it just didn't pan out. Now, he's hoping the second time will be the charm.

To prepare for their new lunch offering, Godfather's Bar & Grill hired a new cook and Dottino said the rest of his staff couldn't be happier because of the extra work hours added to their paychecks.

Next week, they will also start a delivery service where Godfather's Bar & Grill will deliver anywhere around Garapan for a nominal fee of $1.50.

"I've already ordered the food warmers to transport the food hot," said Dottino.

Godfather's Bar & Grill's recent stab at capturing the lunch crowd is a testament to how Dottino and co-owner David Hood are willing to adapt to the changing times.

A former chef at one of prepositioning ships off Saipan, Dottino started Godfather's Bar & Grill in 2005.

"By the grace of our local customers' loyalty, they've been keeping us going. It has been tough. I mean, we've been up and down and there was even a time we were getting by from paycheck to paycheck. We've been keeping the doors open and as long as we can pay our staff and the bills, we're okay," he said.

You can say, giving up on Godfather's Bar & Grill is just an offer he and Hood have continuously refused.

Godfather's Bar & Grill, located along Palm Street in Garapan, is open for lunch everyday from 11:30am to 1:30pm. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 235-2333 or go to their Facebook page.

MARK RABAGO

Godfather's Bar & Grill, located along Palm Street in Garapan, began serving lunch last month.

Godfather's Bar & Grill's French dip sandwich. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Godfather's Bar & Grill's 14-inch pizza. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UK PM splashes cold water on prospects of quick trade deal

LONDON (AP)— British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Saturday sought to dampen optimism about an imminent settlement in the dispute over post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland that has brought political turmoil to the region and clouded relations with the European Union.

A recent flurry of meetings and diplomatic activity, including his own late-night dash to Belfast on Thursday night, has yet to yield an agreement, Sunak said during a question-and-answer session following his speech at a security conference in Munich.

British media outlets have speculated that the outlines of a settlement could be announced as soon as Monday.

"No, there isn't a deal that has been done," Sunak said. "There is an understanding of what needs to be done."

The so-called Northern Ireland Protocol, which governs trade between the region and the Republic of Ireland, has been one of the most vexing issues facing the EU and Britain since the U.K. left the bloc more than two years ago.

Sunak met with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during Saturday's Munich Security Conference as British and EU officials try to capitalize on a recent thaw in relations to resolve their differences.

Sunak's office said the two leaders agreed that recent cooperation in the response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine should be extended to all aspects of the relationship between Britain and the EU.

"They also had a positive discussion about the talks on the Ireland-Northern Ireland Protocol," the prime minister's office said in a statement. "They agreed that there had been very good progress to find solutions. Intensive work in the coming days is still needed at official and ministerial levels."

The protocol was an effort to protect the peace process in Northern Ireland by preserving the free flow of trade between it and the Republic of Ireland, which share the only land border between the United Kingdom and the EU.

But Northern Ireland's biggest unionist party, which wants to remain part of the United Kingdom, opposes the protocol because it says the current arrangement weakens the region's links to Britain.

The Democratic Unionist Party forced the collapse of the region's power-sharing government almost a year ago, saying it wouldn't return until the protocol was renegotiated.

The 1998 agreement that ended three decades of violence in Northern Ireland requires unionists and nationalists, who favor eventual reunification with the Republic of Ireland, to share power in the regional government.

Tunisia orders top European trade union official expelled

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)— President Kais Saied of Tunisia ordered Europe's top trade union official to leave the North African country after she addressed protesters at a demonstration organized by an influential labor union.

Authorities accused Esther Lynch, the Irish general secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation, of making statements that "interfered with Tunisian internal affairs" during a Saturday protest against Saied in the port city of Sfax.

Tunisia's General Labor Union, or UGTT, organized the demonstration to protest a crackdown on the increasingly authoritarian president's political opponents and his critics in the media, judiciary, business community and trade unions.

In an address to the protesters, Lynch demanded the release of union leader Anis Kaabi, who was arrested by security forces last month.

She called on the Tunisian government to negotiate with the UGTT leadership and to improve the economy, which has teetered on the brink of bankruptcy amid political instability that deepened after a parliamentary election last month in which only 11% of voters cast ballots.

"By orders of the president, Tunisian authorities ordered Esther Lynch to leave the country within 24 hours, following statements made during the UGTT-led demonstration that interfered with Tunisian internal affairs," said a statement by the Tunisian presidency that was posted on Twitter late Saturday.

The European Trade Union Confederation (or the ETUC confirmed that Lynch left Tunisia on Sunday.

The treatment of Lynch by the Tunisian authorities "is in line with the campaign of intimidation and harassment being waged against trade unions by President Kais Saied," including "arrests, sacking of union officials (and) malicious lawsuits," the ETUC said in a statement.

"These tactics are part of a campaign by President Saied to break the union's resistance to policies which are making ordinary people pay for the country's economic, social and constitutional crisis," the statement said.

Nation

Biden's test: Sustaining unity as Ukraine war enters Year 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—One year ago, President Joe Biden was bracing for the worst as Russia massed troops in preparation to invade Ukraine.

As many in the West and even in Ukraine doubted Russian President Vladimir Putin's intentions, the White House was adamant: War was coming and Kyiv was woefully outgunned.

In Washington, Biden's aides prepared contingency plans and even drafts of what the president would say should Ukraine's capital quickly fall to Russian forces — a scenario deemed likely by most U.S. officials. Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, was offered help getting out of his country if he wanted it.

Yet as Russia's invasion reaches the one-year mark, the city stands and Ukraine has beaten even its own expectations, buoyed by a U.S.-led alliance that has agreed to equip Ukrainian forces with tanks, advanced air defense systems, and more, while keeping the Kyiv government afloat with tens of billions of dollars in direct assistance.

For Biden, Ukraine was an unexpected crisis, but one that fits squarely into his larger foreign policy outlook that the United States and like-minded allies are in the midst of a generational conflict to demonstrate that liberal democracies such as the U.S. can out-deliver autocracies.

In the estimation of the White House, the war transformed what had been Biden's rhetorical warnings — a staple of his 2020 campaign speeches — into an urgent call to action.

Now, as Biden prepares to travel to Poland to mark the anniversary of the war, he faces a legacy-defining moment.

"President Biden's task is to make the case for sustained free world support for Ukraine," said Daniel Fried, a U.S. ambassador to Poland during the Clinton administration and now a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council. "This is an important trip. And really, Biden can define the role of the free world in turning back tyranny."

Biden administration officials are quick to direct primary credit for Ukraine's staying power to the courage of its armed forces, with a supporting role to the Russian military's ineptitude. But they also believe that without their early warnings and the massive support they orchestrated, Ukraine would have been all but wiped off the map by now.

Sustaining Ukraine's fight, while keeping the war from escalating into a potentially catastrophic wider conflict with NATO, will go down as one of Biden's enduring foreign policy accomplishments, they argue.

In Poland, Biden is set to meet with allies to reassure them of the U.S. commitment to the region and to helping Ukraine "as long as it takes." It's a pledge that is met with skepticism both at home and abroad as the invasion enters its second year, and as Putin shows no signs of retreating from an invasion that has left more than 100,000 of his own forces killed or wounded, along with tens of thousands of Ukrainian service members and civilians — and millions of refugees.

AP

President Joe Biden speaks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as they meet in the Oval Office of the White House, Dec. 21, 2022, in Washington.

Biden's job now is, in part, to persuade Americans — and a worldwide audience — that it's more important than ever to stay in the fight, while cautioning that an endgame is unlikely to come quickly.

His visit to Poland is an opportunity to make the case to "countries that repudiate archaic notions of imperial conquest and wars of aggression about the need to continue to support Ukraine and oppose Russia," said John Sullivan, who stepped down as the U.S. ambassador to Moscow in September. "We always preach, we are seeking to protect a rules-based international order. It's completely done if Russia gets away with this."

Michigan State set to resume classes after fatal shootings

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Michigan State University professor Marco Díaz-Muñoz is still haunted by what he witnessed last Monday night, when a gunman entered his classroom in Berkey Hall, killing two of his students in what he describes as "12 minutes of terror."

"Those images haunt me. The images of those two girls," Díaz-Muñoz told The Associated Press.

Arielle Anderson and Alexandria Verner, both juniors, would die that night, Feb. 13. The gunman would shoot six more students during the rampage in two campus buildings. Brian Fraser also would die. Five others would suffer critical gunshot wounds.

Classes are resuming Monday at the 50,000-student university, though Berkey Hall, an academic building, will not reopen. Officials said Sunday that swiftly resuming classes makes sense for the 2 1/2-month balance of the spring term.

"Coming back together is something that will help us," said Thomas Jeitschko, executive vice president for academic affairs, adding that faculty will have extensive flexibility in how they run their courses.

"We know that everybody heals at their own pace and in their own manner. Getting it exactly right will not be possible," Jeitschko said at a news conference Sunday. "Coming back into spaces that are familiar, interacting with people who are familiar, is helpful in the process of healing and grieving."

Díaz-Muñoz said the university had offered to have another professor teach through the end of the semester.

"On one hand, I want to forget it all. But then on the other hand, I think I need to help my students pick up the pieces," Díaz-Muñoz said. "I think I need to help my students build a sense of meaning. It's not going to be the same as before, but there has to be something good out of it."

Some in the community, however, aren't ready. The editorial board of The State News, the student newspaper, wrote Thursday that they wouldn't immediately attend classes, saying more time was needed to heal.

Jo Kovach, president of student government, said "students are scared" and will need "flexibility, empathy and options" from their professors.

Following the shooting, parents arrived from all over the state to bring students home, at least for the rest of last week. A petition demanding hybrid or online options for students received more than 20,000 signatures by Saturday.

Jeitschko said students will have weeks to decide whether to take a regular grade or a credit/no credit option, which would not affect their overall grade-point average.

"Let the semester play out. Come back. Try to heal," he said.

Díaz-Muñoz understands that some students won't be ready to return, saying that some will still have "the fear of looking over their shoulder and looking out the window, at the doors."

"There are some kids in my class that are graduating this semester. And they need this horrific nightmare to have a better ending than the way it ended on Monday," Díaz-Muñoz said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Memphis police say 1 dead, 10 injured in overnight shooting

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—One person was killed and 10 were injured early Sunday after a shooting in Tennessee, according to a news release from the Memphis Police Department posted on Twitter. Police released photos of three men they said are persons of interest shortly before noon on Sunday. One of the men may have been injured and in need of medical attention, according to police. Victims were found at two locations in the Whitehaven neighborhood of Memphis, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of downtown and near the Memphis International Airport. Police responded first to Memphis nightclub the Live Lounge at 12:43 a.m., according to the release. Two victims were transported to the hospital in critical condition. Five others with less serious injuries went to area hospitals in private vehicles and were released later on Sunday. While police were at the scene of the shooting, they were notified that other victims of the shooting were about a mile away. There, one male victim was pronounced dead and three other victims were transported to the hospital in critical condition, according to police.

Suspect arrested in slaying of university police officer

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A man is facing murder and other charges in the death of a Temple University police officer shot and killed near campus Saturday night, authorities said. The Philadelphia district attorney's office said 18-year-old Miles Pfeffer will face charges of murder, murder of a law enforcement officer, robbery, carjacking and weapons crimes in the death of Officer Christopher Fitzgerald, who prosecutors said was shot in the head while responding to an incident near campus. "Pfeffer is also alleged to have attempted to rob Officer Fitzgerald of his gun and to have gone through his pockets, while the officer was laying on the ground and fatally wounded," District Attorney Larry Krasner said in a statement Sunday. "Pfeffer is further alleged to have committed a carjacking a short time after, close to the location of the officer's murder." The Bucks County district attorney's office said Pfeffer was taken into custody shortly after 7 a.m. Sunday at his Buckingham Township home by township and Philadelphia police as well as state police and federal marshals. "Police used the fallen officer's handcuffs in placing the suspect under arrest," county prosecutors said. There was no immediate word on whether Pfeffer had an attorney; a number listed for his home was no longer in service.

Three teenage girls and gunman dead in Texas shooting

GALENA PARK, Texas (AP)—Authorities say three teenage girls, including one who was pregnant, were fatally shot by man who also sexually assaulted a 12-year-old girl who later escaped then fatally shot himself. No names have been released. The killings occurred at the home of the gunman's girlfriend in the Houston suburb of Galena Park at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday. The girls who were killed were 19, 14 and 13, according to Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. The 38-year-old man then attacked the 12-year-old and then told her to run out of the house, Gonzalez said. She grabbed a 1-year-old baby girl and fled. "She ran out of the residence without any clothing" to the home of a neighbor, who called Galena Park police. "When she ran out she managed to think about it, thankfully, and was able to grab the 1-year-old and ran away," Gonzalez said. Both girls were hospitalized for treatment of injuries that were not life-threatening, according to a statement from Galena Park police. The investigation has been turned over to the sheriff's department.

Asia

North Korea fires short-range missiles after making threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward Japan on Monday in its second weapons test in three days that drew quick condemnation from its rivals and prompted Tokyo to request an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

The weapons firings follow an intercontinental ballistic missile launch Saturday and North Korea's threats to take an unprecedentedly strong response to U.S.-South Korean military drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal. Some experts say North Korea could use a new testing spree to expand its arsenal and intends eventually to use its boosted capability as leverage in negotiations with the United States.

South Korea's military said it detected the two missile launches from a western coastal town, just north of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, on Monday morning. Japan said both missiles landed in the waters outside of the Japanese exclusive economic zone between the Korean Peninsula and Japan and that no damage involving aircraft and vessels in the area was reported.

According to Japanese and South Korean assessments, the North Korean missiles flew at a maximum altitude of 50-100 kilometers (30-60 miles) and a distance of 340-400 kilometers (210-250 miles).

South Korea's military said North Korea's repeated missile launches are "a grave provocation" that undermine international peace. Japan condemned the launches as violations to the U.N. Security Council resolutions and a threat to the peace and safety of Japan and the international society.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters Monday that Japan is requesting an emergency security council meeting in response to North Korea's launches. "We must deepen Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-South Korea cooperation," Kishida said.

An initial security council briefing led by Assistant Secretary-General for political affairs Khaled Khiari was set for later Monday.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the missile launches highlight "the destabilizing impact" of North Korea's unlawful weapons programs. It said the U.S. commitments to the defense of South Korea and Japan "remain ironclad."

North Korea's state media said long-range artillery units on its western coast fired two rounds Monday morning cross-country toward the eastern waters, possibly referring to the same activity its neighbors said were missile launches. The official Korean Central News Agency said the North Korean artillery rounds simulated strikes on targets up to 395 kilometers (245 miles) away.

The North said the launches involved its new 600-millimeter multiple rocket launcher system that could be armed with "tactical" nuclear weapons for battlefield use. Some experts viewed the weapons system as a short-range ballistic missile.

"The frequency of using the Pacific as our firing range depends upon the U.S. forces' action character," Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said in a statement carried by state media. "We are well aware of the movement of U.S. forces' strategic strike means, (which are) recently getting brisk around the Korean Peninsula."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen wound Philippine governor, kill 4 of his bodyguards

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen wounded a provincial governor and killed four of his bodyguards in an attack on their convoy Friday in a southern Philippine region with a long history of violent political conflicts and Muslim rebellion, officials said. Lanao del Sur Governor Mamintal Alonto Adiong Jr. was shot in the waist, an aide was injured in the feet, and four bodyguards were killed by heavily armed men as their convoy passed through a village on the boundary of Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon provinces, police said. Adiong and his aide were hospitalized in stable condition, Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong, a brother of the governor, said on Facebook. Authorities did not immediately provide other details, including who was suspected of carrying out the attack. "The worst has passed. He's out of danger," Zia Alonto Adiong said. "We implore the authorities to act with urgency and utilize all legal means available to pursue and bring the perpetrators to justice."

14 passengers killed, 63 injured in bus crash in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A speeding passenger bus crashed off a motorway and overturned in eastern Pakistan, killing at least 14 passengers and injuring 63 others, police and government officials said Monday. The crash happened overnight near the town of Kallar Kahar in Punjab province, a deputy commissioner, Quratulain Malik, said. She said all the dead and injured had been moved to a hospital. She provided no further details, and police said they were still investigating the cause. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in a statement expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in the crash and ordered authorities to provide the best possible medical treatment to the injured. Last month, a passenger bus crashed into a pillar and fell off a bridge, catching fire and killing 40 people in the southern district of Lasbela. Traffic accidents in Pakistan generally happen due to violations of traffic rules, resulting in the deaths of thousands every year.

Philippine plane with 4 aboardgoes missing, search underway

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A small plane carrying four people went missing Saturday after taking off southeast of the Philippine capital and a search was underway, aviation officials said. The Cessna 340 left Albay province for Manila with a pilot, a crewmember and two passengers Saturday morning but has not been heard from since then, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said. Aviation officials did not immediately provide details about the people onboard but said Philippine air force, coast guard and disaster-response agencies have been notified and asked to help in the search. Separately, a single-engine Cessna plane that went missing with six people on board Jan. 24 in northern Isabela province remained missing. A search for the plane was continuing on and off depending on the weather in a remote mountainous hinterland in Isabela, officials said.

World

AP

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends a panel discussion at the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023.

Ukraine in mind, US frantic to avert Mideast showdown at UN

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is scrambling to avert a diplomatic crisis over Israeli settlement activity this week at the United Nations that threatens to overshadow and perhaps derail what the U.S. hopes will be a solid five days of focus on condemning Russia's war with Ukraine.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken made two emergency calls on Saturday from the Munich Security Conference, which he is attending in an as-yet unsuccessful bid to avoid or forestall such a showdown. It remained unclear whether another last-minute intervention might salvage the situation, according to diplomats familiar with the ongoing discussions who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Without giving details, the State Department said in nearly identical statements that Blinken had spoken to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from Munich to "reaffirm the U.S. commitment to a negotiated two-state solution and opposition to policies that endanger its viability."

"The secretary underscored the urgent need for Israelis and Palestinians to take steps that restore calm and our strong opposition to unilateral measures that would further escalate tensions," the statements said.

Neither statement mentioned the proposed U.N. Security Council resolution demanding an immediate halt to Israeli settlements. The Palestinians want to bring that resolution to a vote on Monday. And neither statement gave any indication as to how the calls ended.

But diplomats familiar with the conversations said that in his call to Abbas, Blinken reiterated an offer to the Palestinians for a U.S. package of incentives to entice them to drop or at least delay the resolution.

Those incentives included a White House meeting for Abbas with President Joe Biden, movement on reopening the American consulate in Jerusalem, and a significant aid package, the diplomats said.

Blinken pledges $100M aid to Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took a helicopter tour Sunday of one of the provinces worst-affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in southern Turkey and northern Syria and pledged a further $100 million in aid to help the region.

"This is going to be a long-term effort," Blinken said at Incirlik Air Base, a joint U.S.-Turkish facility that has coordinated the distribution of disaster aid. "The search and rescue, unfortunately, is coming to an end. The recovery is on, and then there will be a massive rebuilding operation."

President Joe Biden announced $85 million for Turkey and Syria days after the earthquake that has killed more than 44,000 people in the two countries. The U.S. has also sent a search and rescue team, medical supplies and equipment.

The additional aid includes $50 million in emergency refugee and migration funds and $50 million in humanitarian assistance, Blinken said.

The secretary of state is making his first trip to NATO ally Turkey since he took office two years ago. Blinken arrived at Incirlik Air Base, near Adana, on Sunday after attending the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

He toured Turkey's toured Hatay province from the air with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. He was expected to meet with U.S. and Turkish service personnel, as well as Turkish military families affected by the earthquake.

"When you see the extent of the damage, the number of buildings, the number of apartments, the number of homes that have been destroyed, it's going to take a massive effort to rebuild," the top U.S. diplomat said after the helicopter tour.

"The most important thing right now is to get assistance to people who need it, to get them through the winter and to get them back on their feet," Blinken said as troops nearby unloaded boxes of aid... We'll stick with it until we get the job done."

Incirlik, home to the U.S. Air Force's 39th Air Base Wing, has been a crucial logistics center for aid distribution. Supplies from around the world have been flown into the base and sent by truck and helicopter to those in need, including in difficult to reach villages.

Overdrive

A bit of good news courtesy of the 2023 Mazda CX-5

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

How rarely do we genuinely hear good news? It seems that most news sources delight in torturing their readers or viewers with journalism sure to outrage, titillate, disgust, annoy or anger their readers. I don't know about you, but I am ready to hear something happy.

So, it's with great delight that I can report that for 2023, the Mazda CX-5 crossover hasn't changed, except for the addition of a white paint option—and that's good.

Like other Mazda vehicles, this one punches above its weight. I had to pick up some friends in Palm Beach—friends whose own automotive corral is filled with names like Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar, Lexus and others. Climbing into the test vehicle, admittedly a top-of-the-line model, they were blown away by the cabin's fit and finish for the price, with materials that seemed as nice as any luxury car. It's a feeling reinforced by the CX-5's clean contemporary cabin aesthetics.

At a mere 180 inches long and 72.6 inches wide, the CX-5 proves unexpectedly accommodating and roomy, with room for four, or five if they're children or overly friendly. The cargo area is just as ample at 30 cubic feet with the rear seats in use. The roof is rated to carry 165 pounds when equipped with roof rails.

It was quiet and comfortable, with my friends comparing the CX-5 to vehicles that cost twice as much but aren't twice as good. Padded surfaces and refined finishes are everywhere throughout the cabin.

A 10.25-inch full-color center display is artlessly plopped atop the instrument panel, controlled by a rotary knob on the center console and equipped with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, wireless phone charger, and Bluetooth. Given the cabin's small size, a touchscreen would be more ideal, especially given the system's clunky user interface that skewers an otherwise ideal driving experience. A stellar-sounding Bose 10-speaker audio system is standard on Premium and higher trim levels. Two USB ports are fitted front and rear, except on the base model, which only has them up front.

All Mazda CX-5s come with a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine. In S, S Select, S Preferred, S Carbon Edition, S Premium and S Premium Plus trim levels, the normally aspirated power plant is rated 187 horsepower and 186 pound-feet of torque. Turbo and Turbo Signature models come with a turbocharged version of the same engine that puts out a respectable 227 horsepower and a massive 310 pound-feet of torque with 87 octane gasoline. Use 93 octane and you'll get 256 horsepower and 320 pound-feet of torque. All models come with a six-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive. Most trims come with 17-inch wheels; Carbon, Premium and Turbo models have 19-inch footwear.

Standard driver assistance safety features include radar cruise control, blind spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, and lane departure warning with lane keep assist. Turbo Signature models like our test vehicle include traffic sign recognition, front and rear parking sensors, traffic jam assist, and driver attention alert.

Thanks to its accurate steering and modest size, the CX-5 is responsive and fun to-drive, thanks to the powerful turbocharged powerplant. The automatic transmission may only have six cogs, but it makes the vehicle respond more quickly. But its athleticism doesn't come at the expense of ride comfort. It has a surprisingly calm, grown-up demeanor that doesn't get flustered when thrown into corners, where it confidently handles the tarmac and keeps unwanted body motions to a minimum. Braking performance is excellent.

And it's really quiet, surprisingly so. And while our top-of-the-line test vehicle broke the $40,000 barrier, it had everything you'd want, including a sunroof, heated seats and steering wheel, etc. But base models start at a far more reasonable $26,700 before destination fee, options or sales tax. That's quite a deal.

It's hard to imagine that a compact SUV with this much poise, refinement and speed should cost as little as it does in today's market, which charges far more for vehicles with far fewer attributes. Not only is the CX-5 recommended by Consumer Reports; it also has a five-star overall crash test rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety "Top Safety Pick+" designation, it's top rating. Yet despite all that, it's truly fun to drive, yet practical and very good looking.

Now, isn't that good news?

NUTS & BOLTS

- **2023 Mazda CX-5 2.5 Turbo Signature AWD**
- **Base price:** $39,650
- **Engine:** 2,.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- **Horsepower/Torque:** 227/310 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** 22/27 mpg
- **Length/Width/Height:** 180.2/72.6/66.3 inches
- **Ground clearance:** 7.9 inches
- **Payload:** 972 pounds
- **Cargo capacity:** 30-59.3 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity:** 2,000 pounds

ANNA JOZWIAK/MAZDA
For 2023, the Mazda CX-5 crossover hasn't changed, except for the addition of a white paint option.

MAZDA
The 2023 Mazda CX-5 comes with a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine.

MAZDA
The 2023 Mazda CX-5 instrument panel has a 10.25-inch full-color center display equipped with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, wireless phone charger, and Bluetooth.

Message received

Q: I have a 2017 Lincoln MKZ Hybrid with about 24,000 miles. About three years after we purchased it, a warning message appeared: SERVICE TIRE MOBILITY KIT. I took my car to the dealer service department and they, $75 later, replaced the air canister in the kit. Now, three years later, that message has appeared again. How long can I go without replacing the air canister and how do I turn off or reset the continual appearance of that tire kit message?

D.S., Las Vegas

A: New canisters are rated to last four years. It is easy to replace, and the instructions should be in your owner's manual. You reset the warning using the vehicle's info screen settings and scroll until you find "Reset Tire Mobility Kit." Next, select the four-years button and you will get another reminded in four years. The canister is a dealer part.

■■■

Q: I appreciate your answer to backing into a parking spot. I get a better idea of my surroundings, other vehicles, shopping carts and pedestrians when I back in. And it's easier to go forward when I leave.

G.K., Evergreen Park, Illinois

A: Thank you, but here's another view.

■■■

Q: Love your column, but I think your answer about backing into parking spots might be due for an update. I used to religiously look for spots that I could drive through in the double row so that I could just pull out forward. Same for spots up against the building. Now that I drive a car with a backup camera, I have switched to pulling into a spot and then back out because the camera provides me with a 180-degree-plus view as well as warning indicators if a pedestrian or car is coming toward me.

T.S., Allentown, Pennsylvania

■■■

Q: We have a 2011 Accord where both sun visors droop. In 2018, I had the dealer repair the driver's side visor (for $120) but within two years, it was drooping again. The dealer said that this was a problem with the 2011 Accord but I find this hard to believe. Is this a fixable issue?

D.K., Deerfield, Illinois

A: The only solution to the floppy visor is to replace it. That's probably what the dealer did. But you can buy a new sun visor and have any independent shop or handy do-it-yourselfer replace it in a few minutes.

■■■

Q: My husband moves the driver's seat way back. I like it up close. If the car airbags go off, which one of us would be impacted more? He says it would be me, I say it would be him. Who is right?

S.J., Batavia, Illinois

A: The 10 inches minimum rule between the human and the airbag still applies. From 1987 to 2017, frontal air bags saved 50,457 lives. That's enough people to fill a major league ballpark, says NHTSA.

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

‘All Quiet’ wins 7 BAFTAs, including best film, at UK awards

LONDON (AP)—Antiwar German movie “All Quiet on the Western Front” won seven prizes, including best picture, at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, building the somber drama’s momentum as awards season rolls toward its climax at next month’s Oscars.

Irish tragicomedy “The Banshees of Inisherin” and rock biopic “Elvis” took four prizes each.

“All Quiet,” a visceral depiction of life and death in the World War I trenches based on Erich Maria Remarque’s classic novel, won Edward Berger the best director award. Its other trophies included adapted screenplay, cinematography, best score, best sound and best film not in English.

Austin Butler was a surprise best actor winner for “Elvis.” Baz Lurhmann’s flamboyant musical also won trophies for casting, costume design and hair and makeup. Cate Blanchett won the best actress prize for orchestral drama “Tár.”

Martin McDonagh’s “Banshees,” the bleakly comic story of a friendship gone sour, was named best British film.

“Best what award?” joked McDonagh of the film, which was shot in Ireland with a largely Irish cast and crew. It has British funding, and McDonagh was born in Britain to Irish parents.

“Banshees” also won for McDonagh’s original screenplay, and awards for Kerry Condon as best supporting actress and Barry Keoghan for best supporting actor.

The prizes—officially the EE BAFTA Film Awards—are Britain’s equivalent of Hollywood’s Academy Awards and will be watched closely for hints of who may win at the Oscars on March 12.

Madcap metaverse romp “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” the Academy Awards front-runner, was the night’s big loser, winning just one prize from its 10 BAFTA nominations, for editing.

Actor Richard E. Grant was a suave and self-deprecating host—with support from TV presenter Alison Hammond—for the ceremony at London’s Royal Festival Hall, where the U.K’s movie academy heralded its strides to become more diverse but said there was more to be done.

Grant joked in his opening monologue about the infamous altercation between Will Smith and Chris Rock at last year’s Oscars.

“Nobody on my watch gets slapped tonight,” he said. “Except on the back.”

Guests and presenters walking the red carpet on the south bank of the River Thames included Colin Farrell, Ana de Armas, Eddie Redmayne, Brian Cox, Florence Pugh, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Cynthia Erivo, Julianne Moore and Lily James.

Heir to the throne Prince William, who is president of Britain’s film and television academy, was in the audience alongside his wife, Kate. William wore a tuxedo with black velvet jacket, while Kate dressed in a floor-length Alexander McQueen dress that she also wore to the 2019 BAFTAs.

Helen Mirren paid tribute to William’s grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, who died in September. Mirren, who portrayed the late monarch onscreen in “The Queen” and onstage in “The Audience,” called Elizabeth “the nation’s leading lady.”

Britain’s film academy introduced changes to increase the awards’ diversity in 2020, when no women were nominated as best director for the seventh year running and all 20 nominees in the lead and supporting performer categories were white.

The Daniels win the DGA’s top prize

CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Daniel Kwan, left, and Daniel Scheinert pose in the press room with the award for outstanding directorial achievement in a theatrical feature film for “Everything Everywhere All at Once” at the 75th annual Directors Guild of America Awards on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

The Directors Guild of America handed its top prize for feature filmmaking to Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert for “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” putting them on course to win at the Academy Awards next month.

The 75th annual DGA Awards, held at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, on Saturday evening, denied Steven Spielberg a record-extending four wins for the guild’s top honor. Spielberg had once been expected to cruise through awards season with his autobiographical “The Fabelmans,” but the strong affection for “Everything Everywhere All at Once”—the Oscar favorite with a leading 11 nominations—has come to dominate Hollywood’s Oscar run-up.

In the past 10 years, all but once has the DGA winner gone on to win at the Academy Awards. (In 2020, Sam Mendes won at the DGA for “1917,” while Bong Joon Ho won the Oscar for “Parasite.”) Last year, Jane Campion (“The Power of the Dog”) won at each. In 75 years, only 10 times have the DGA winner and the Oscar winner not aligned.

The other nominees were: Todd Field (“Tár”), Martin McDonagh (“The Banshees of Inisherin”) and Joseph Kosinski (“Top Gun: Maverick”). The same filmmakers are nominated for best director at the March 12 Oscars, with one exception. The academy picked Ruben Östlund (“Triangle of Sadness”) rather than Kosinski.

Tom Sizemore in critical condition after brain aneurysm

Sizemore

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Sizemore is in critical condition after suffering a brain aneurysm, a representative for the actor said Sunday.

Sizemore suffered the aneurysm around 2 a.m. Saturday at his home in Los Angeles. He was hospitalized in intensive care, his manager Charles Lago said. Lago described Sizemore’s condition “a wait and see situation.”

Sizemore, 61, has acted in films including “Saving Private Ryan,” “Heat” and “Black Hawk Down.” He also has had a history of drug abuse and run-ins with law enforcement.

Sizemore was convicted of domestic violence in 2003 against his girlfriend, Heidi Fleiss. In 2006, he pleaded no contest to using methamphetamine outside a motel. Sizemore was arrested in Los Angeles in 2009 for suspected battery of a former spouse, and again in 2011 for the same offense. In 2018, a then 26-year-old actress filed a lawsuit against Sizemore, claiming he abused her as an 11-year-old during production on the film “Born Killers.” Sizemore denied it, and the suit was later dismissed.

Betrayal shatters marriage at beginning of retirement

DEAR ABBY: I’m in mourning for my husband. He’s still alive, but he up and left six months ago and sent me a text saying he’s done. He is living with another woman. I didn’t see it coming. We were planning our retirement move up to our cabin. One weekend he kicked me out of the cabin, and three hours later had her join him there.

I feel so lost. At this point, I don’t want him back because I feel he has committed the ultimate betrayal. I have started counseling because I’m so confused, grieving and upset. My counselor seems to think he is leaving the door open to one day return. He still comes once a month to pay the bills. However, when he does, he doesn’t want me there. He texts to make sure I will be gone for a few hours, so I leave.

I miss him, but I can’t get beyond the pain and betrayal. He has lost a ton of weight and looks terrible. He has aged so much. He’s 66, clinically depressed and an alcoholic. He’s also a narcissist. He would never admit he did something wrong; it was always “my fault.” I never knew what I would be facing after work.

I’m still in the house and slowly packing up his clutter that I was never allowed to touch. (He is a hoarder.) I’m lonely, but I’m enjoying my peace. We don’t communicate at all. My question is, do you think he is going to come walking back in like nothing happened?

ABANDONED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR ABANDONED: I hope not! And if he did show up, why on Earth would you want him back? (Frankly, I am surprised that your therapist would suggest you would open the door to him.) You are free. Consult an attorney, clear out the physical and emotional debris in your life and enjoy it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I are preparing to move south because we’re tired of cold weather. The biggest issue is my cat, Buster.” He isn’t a kitten anymore; he is 9. Buster’s in good health, but we are being advised not to take him from the apartment we share with my dad due to Buster’s age. My father is a mediocre caretaker at best. Half the time he doesn’t clean the litter box or even take out the garbage. I’m convinced Buster would end up being neglected. I have been accused of planning to steal him.

Yesterday, I found out Dad tested positive for COVID and didn’t tell anyone until we were in the apartment, too. He put us all at risk. This kind of carelessness scares me about leaving Buster with him. Should I take him with us, or heed the advice about not stressing an older pet and leave him with dad? I will be heartbroken if I can’t take him.

SAD, STRESSED CAT MOM

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SAD: If the advice about “stressing an older cat” came from a veterinarian, it merits consideration. If it didn’t, then have no qualms about taking Buster with you when you make the move. It would be better to do that than to leave him in an environment where you would worry that he’s being neglected.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S IN THAT BAG?
IT'S A SEVERED HEAD.
IT IS NOT! DON'T BE DISGUSTING!
FINE. DON'T BELIEVE ME.
YOU SAID IT WOULD COME IN HANDY DURING TODAY'S TEST.
THE HEAD IS AN ORACLE. I'LL PUT IT ON MY DESK AND IT WILL TELL ME ANSWERS.
FORGET I ASKED! I DON'T EVEN CARE!
SOOOOSIE IS A BOOGER BRAAINN!
IT SPEAKS THE TRUTH!
2-21

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JIM DAVIS 2-21
I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN SIT AND WATCH TV
CLICK
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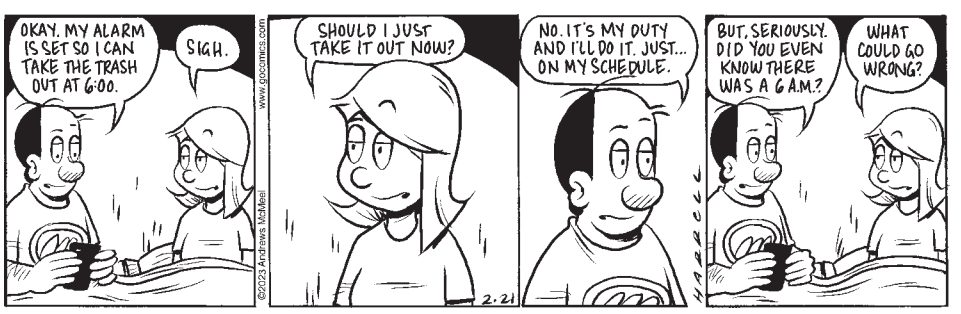
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. MY ALARM IS SET SO I CAN TAKE THE TRASH OUT AT 6:00.
SIGH.
SHOULD I JUST TAKE IT OUT NOW?
NO. IT'S MY DUTY AND I'LL DO IT. JUST... ON MY SCHEDULE.
BUT, SERIOUSLY. DID YOU EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A 6 A.M.?
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?
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www.gocomics.com
2-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHY CAN'T I GO WITH YOU TO THE MARDI GRAS PARTY?
BECAUSE YOU'RE A PARTY POOPER.
BOY, YOU'RE JUST NEVER GOING TO LET ME LIVE THAT DOWN!
2-21

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Herring's kin
5 Taxi
8 Japanese noodles
12 Give a darn
13 Buck-eyes' sch.
14 Pundit's piece
15 Operatic solo
16 Central playing area
18 Tummy area
20 Killer whales
21 Glacial
22 Opposite of "post-"
23 Lovable ogre
26 Jordan's locale
30 Motorist's org.
31 Pester
32 Abysmal
33 Around summer-time
36 Taters
38 Stately tree
39 Tofu source
40 Bar mishap
43 College exam
47 Central regions
49 Bee's home
50 Fashion magazine
51 24 horas
52 Pitcher Hershiser
53 Garden intruder
54 Have a bug
55 Dweeb

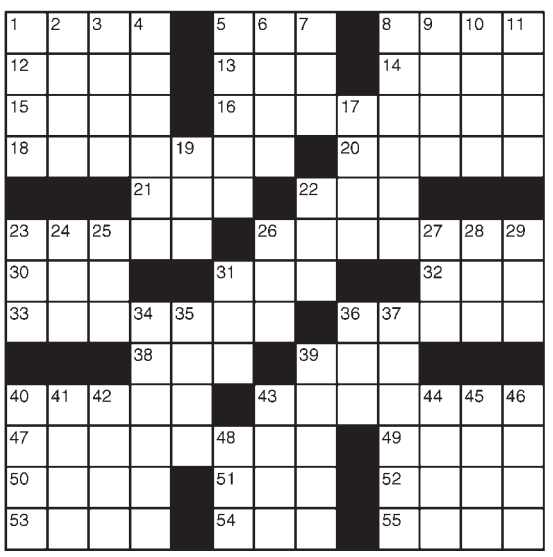
DOWN

1 Con job
2 Mata —
3 Bone-dry
4 Sweet-heart
5 Snug and warm
6 "Dream on!"
7 Future flower
8 Evening party
9 Oil cartel
10 Com-poser Bartok
11 Tosses in
17 Nixon succes-sor
19 "Nasty!"
22 Babe, for example
23 Muppet eagle
24 "Bali —"
25 "Way cool!"
26 Blemish
27 Dhabi preceder
28 Feeling down
29 QBs' goals
31 "Platoon" locale
34 Gave a shout-out?
35 Jazzy Fitzgerald
36 Turf
37 Large con-strictor
39 Twine fiber
40 Diving duck
41 Heap
42 Between jobs
43 1502, in Old Rome
44 Green land
45 KOA patron
46 Blend
48 Secret-protecting doc.

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	L	B	S	■	P	U	B	■	F	I	R	S
C	A	L	L	■	E	A	R	■	A	M	A	L
L	I	E	U	■	P	R	E	S	T	I	G	E
U	N	W	R	A	P	■	W	A	I	T	E	D
■	■	■	P	R	E	P	■	G	M	A	■	■
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	D	■	A	T	R	I
A	D	S	■	A	U	D	R	E	■	O	E	R
T	A	C	O	■	P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E
■	■	A	D	E	■	O	A	S	T	■	■	■
S	U	P	E	R	S	■	M	E	A	G	E	R
P	R	E	S	E	N	C	E	■	L	O	L	A
A	G	E	S	■	O	A	R	■	I	B	I	S
M	E	S	A	■	W	T	S	■	A	S	A	P

Yesterday's answer 2-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elliot Page, 36; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 44; William Baldwin, 60; Kelsey Grammer, 68.

Happy Birthday: Dream on, but don't lose sight of reality. Truth matters; offering false information will cost you emotionally. Let your uniqueness shine through. You'll find a cost-efficient way to forge ahead. Expand your awareness and spread joy to those you meet along the way. A balance between work and play will help you build strong relationships that influence how things unfold throughout the year. Your numbers are 2, 13, 24, 26, 33, 35, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Assess your situation and subsequent move. Don't share too much information until you have sorted out the pros, cons and possibility of putting your plans in motion. Reevaluate your relationships and consider who is an excellent candidate to work alongside. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Stubbornness and hesitation will be your downfalls. Verify information and head for the finish line. Your vision, hands-on help and openness will win favors and encourage someone with something to contribute to support your effort. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do what you do best, and don't let jealousy or emotional manipulation point you in the wrong direction. Take a moment to evaluate how you can help others and still reach the goals you set for yourself. Keep sensitive issues to yourself. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't take on too much, or you'll miss out on something special. Coordinate your plans to include people and activities offering a different perspective on life, love and happiness. Take the path that promises the lifestyle you desire. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Play to win, be the entertainment and let your charm dazzle someone you want to impress. Be open about your intentions. Offer your skills to help round out a group addressing a concern you share. Personal growth and romance are apparent. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Traveling or attending a conference will encourage you to try something you've been afraid to pursue. Don't let fear of failure hold you back. Embrace challenges with open arms, and focus on changes that deliver personal happiness. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Time spent with colleagues, clients or classmates will lead to fresh insight and intelligent solutions. Start a discussion addressing expectations, and hash out what you are willing to do and how much. Be forthright; you'll make a lasting impression. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen to complaints and find solutions. Compromising and finding unique ways to get along with others will make your life easier. Get involved in the creative process that goes along with any plans you want to incorporate into your everyday routine. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Tell it like it is, or someone will correct you. Look on the bright side, but don't lose sight of your responsibilities. Use intelligence to create a financially sound plan to attract support and partners. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Consider the past and what you must do to improve your life. A home improvement project or changing your lifestyle or living arrangements will set you on a positive path. Trust and believe in yourself instead of bending to someone's demand. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Offer hands-on help, but don't give away money you cannot afford to donate. Reach out to someone you lost touch with and pick up where you left off. Doing so will change how you move forward and where or how you live. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to the truth, and ask questions to avoid making mistakes. Get the facts, and make safe decisions that won't jeopardize your position or long-term goals. Adjust your spending to stay within budget. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are expressive, sensitive and bold. You are original and active.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6				9	2		4	7
7		4	5	8				
2				4		8	1	
8	6	2			7		3	
1				3			8	9
5		9				2		
		6				9		
4	5		3		9	7		8
9		8		5				

Difficulty: ★★ 2-21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	3	9	4	8	7	1	2	5
8	1	5	6	3	2	4	7	9
2	4	7	1	5	9	3	6	8
9	2	6	5	4	3	7	8	1
3	8	1	9	7	6	5	4	2
7	5	4	8	2	1	6	9	3
1	6	2	7	9	5	8	3	4
4	7	3	2	1	8	9	5	6
5	9	8	3	6	4	2	1	7

Difficulty: ★ 2-20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SHROVE TUESDAY Solution: 7 letters

F	A	S	T	I	N	G	N	I	S	S	E	L	B	E
A	R	Y	A	D	S	E	N	D	E	W	H	S	A	G
M	R	I	T	U	A	L	D	O	N	U	T	S	B	A
I	A	I	E	S	T	S	E	I	R	P	L	E	S	S
L	T	S	C	N	G	T	N	E	L	L	L	K	O	U
Y	R	R	S	H	D	G	T	D	O	I	P	A	L	A
Y	A	E	U	T	U	S	E	R	R	T	U	C	V	S
T	D	L	G	R	A	V	N	A	S	G	R	N	E	A
I	I	I	A	E	O	O	D	A	I	R	Y	A	D	R
N	T	G	R	T	M	N	E	Y	C	K	S	P	A	G
U	I	I	I	A	E	F	F	L	O	U	R	Y	R	I
M	O	O	N	L	U	X	U	R	Y	J	S	O	A	D
M	N	N	A	S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	P	R
O	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	A	P	L	E	O	A
C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	O	N	I	F	F	U	M

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Absolve, Ash Wednesday, Blessing, Calendar, Cinnamon Rolls, Community, Confession, Custom, Dairy, Devotion, Donuts, Easter, Eggs, Enjoy, Family, Fasting, Feast, Flour, Friends, Ice Cream, Lent, Luxury, Maple, Mardi Gras, Mass, Muffin, Pancakes, Parade, Pork, Priest, Religion, Rich, Ritual, Sacrament, Sausage, Sugar, Syrup, Tradition

Yesterday's Answer: Supportive

The NEW **Volume 70** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Tatum scores All-Star record 55, Team Giannis wins 184-175

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Jayson Tatum put on a record-setting show, and made Giannis Antetokounmpo look like a genius.

Tatum scored an All-Star Game-record 55 points on his way to winning MVP honors, and Team Giannis ended LeBron James' hold on All-Star captain supremacy by beating Team LeBron 184-175 in the NBA's annual showcase exhibition on Sunday night.

Tatum had 27 points in the third quarter, another All-Star Game record for any period. He was the first pick by Antetokounmpo in the starters' portion of the All-Star draft, and in the end, that pick proved to be the right one.

And the MVP award Tatum was given is named for Kobe Bryant, one of his heroes.

"It means the world," Tatum said. "You think of all the legends and great players that have played this game, and in all honesty, records are made to be broken. I'll hold it for as long as I can, but I'm certain someone will come along in a couple years and try to break it."

Tatum broke Anthony Davis' All-Star record of 52 points. He was 22 of 31 from the floor, plus had 10 rebounds and six assists.

It was James' first loss in six times as captain. Antetokounmpo improved to 1-2 in his All-Star captaincies, and became the first captain to hoist a new trophy presented to the winners of the All-Star Game.

"Winner, winner, chicken dinner," Antetokounmpo said.

Later, with a more serious tone, Antetokounmpo said he had a reason for choosing Tatum.

"I knew he would take it serious. It was a no-brainer," he said.

Donovan Mitchell added 40 for Team Giannis, which got 26 points from Damian Lillard—including the game-winner to push his team past the target score.

Jaylen Brown scored 35 points and had 14 rebounds for Team LeBron, while Kyrie Irving had 32 points and 15 assists and Joel Embiid finished with 32 points.

Brown and Tatum—Boston teammates—were reveling in a back-and-forth duel during a stretch of the second half.

"It was a normal day for us," Tatum said. "Just millions of people watching."

Lillard, the winner of the 3-point contest on All-Star Saturday Night, made eight 3s—including a halfcourt pullup in the third quarter.

"That was the worst basketball game I've ever seen," Team LeBron coach Michael Malone said, clearly poking fun at the defense-optional event.

Winning coach Joe Mazzulla of Team Giannis said he had a very simple strategy.

"Stay out of the way, enjoy it, have fun, allow the guys to just be themselves," Mazzulla said. "I think it's important, especially in this league, that guys are just able to be themselves."

The league had a ceremony before the second half to pay tribute to the three leading scorers in NBA history: No. 3 Karl Malone, No. 2 Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James, now the game's career leader after he passed Abdul-Jabbar earlier this month.

AP

Team Giannis forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives during the first half of the NBA basketball All-Star game Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

Malone and Abdul-Jabbar were brought to the stage, and then Dwyane Wade—James' former teammate in Miami and now a part-owner of the Jazz—introduced James to bring him onto the platform.

"We've all been witnesses," Wade said. "No matter the challenge, no matter the noise, he was relentless."

With the number 38,388 displayed behind him, James then raised his hand to thank the fans for their ovation, hugged Abdul-Jabbar and Malone. He didn't return to the game, his night ending with a right hand contusion.

He finished with 13 points, and said a chase-down block in the first half led to him getting a finger caught in the rim.

"Precautionary reasons," James said.

James played a half. The game's other captain didn't play a half-minute.

Antetokoumpo drafted his team before the game, went through warmups (such as they were) and started the game as planned.

But his right wrist was wrapped, and that was an ominous sign. The injury kept him out of All-Star Saturday's skills event, limited him to 20 seconds in this one. He got an uncontested dunk to open the game, then took a foul and headed to the bench.

"Whatever I have, I'm going to give," Antetokounmpo said. "That's who I am. That's never going to change."

As in past years, the teams played for charity, with Team LeBron raising money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah and Team Giannis for Raise the Future, which connects youth waiting in foster care with stable adults. Each team started with $150,000, with the first three quarters worth another $100,000 apiece and the All-Star Game winner getting another $150,000.

The teams were tied at 46-46 in the first quarter, and Team Giannis took the second quarter 53-46. Team Giannis also won the third quarter 59-49, and the cumulative score to that point—158-141, Team Giannis—meant 182 would be the score to reach in the untimed fourth quarter with a target-score ending.

Team Giannis won $550,000 for its charity, and Team LeBron won $200,000. And Tatum, just as he vowed he would at his first All-Star Game in 2020—when the award was named for Bryant—won the trophy that he's wanted for a while.

"Icing on the cake," Tatum said.

Love picks Miami; AP source says Heat also to sign Zeller

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Kevin Love says he has picked the Miami Heat.

Love said Sunday that he will sign with the Heat for the remainder of the season once he clears waivers, a major add for a Miami team that is looking to move up in the Eastern Conference before the postseason begins.

"Miami it is, yes," Love said in a text message to The Associated Press.

Also Sunday, a person with knowledge of the matter said the Heat are finalizing plans to add another big man in free agent center Cody Zeller, with that deal expected to be completed before the team gathers in Miami to begin practice following the All-Star break. That person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because Zeller's contract has not been signed.

Love's decision was first reported by ESPN.

The 6-foot-9 forward and the Cleveland Cavaliers agreed to buyout terms on Saturday, ending his nine-year run with the team that he helped win the 2016 NBA championship.

Over parts of 15 NBA seasons with Cleveland and Minnesota, Love has averaged 17.2 points and 10.5 rebounds. He averaged career-lows of 8.5 points, 6.8 rebounds and 20 minutes per game in 41 games, almost all as a reserve, this season for Cleveland and didn't play in the team's final 12 games before the All-Star break.

That prompted buyout talks, and once they were done, Love chose Miami.

"It would give us another vet, another guy who's been through the playoffs, another guy who knows what it takes to win and get to where we want to go," Heat center Bam Adebayo said.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love warms up before an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Friday, Feb. 10, 2023.

Love is a five-time NBA All-Star, an Olympic champion and FIBA World Cup champion as part of USA Basketball, and his combination of size and 3-point shooting ability would seem to fit perfectly into the Heat system.

The Heat will come out of the All-Star break seventh in the Eastern Conference at 32-27, five games back of Cleveland for the No. 4 spot. The top four teams in each conference will have home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs, and the top six in each conference will avoid the play-in tournament to determine the seventh and eighth seeds.

Miami will become Zeller's third NBA city. He has averaged 8.5 points and 6.0 rebounds in 494 games with Charlotte and Portland. The 6-foot-11 center was the fourth pick in the 2013 draft.

Tiger Woods gets some momentum with weekend 67 at Riviera

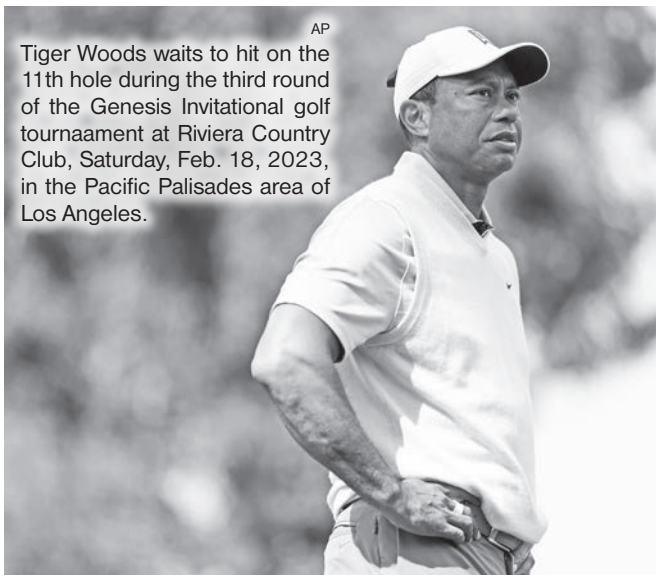
LOS ANGELES (AP)— Jon Rahm could hear the cheers from all over Riviera, the sound typically associated with someone making a charge. Except they came from the opposite side of the course that featured players too far away from the lead.

What they meant was not nearly as mysterious as to whom they belonged.

"You're fully aware where Tiger is anywhere," Rahm said after his own masterpiece Saturday in the Genesis Invitational, a 6-under 65 for a three-shot lead.

Woods is cheered wildly just walking to the tee, though this time his golf was the source. He had a 67 that didn't allow him to pick up any ground— in fact, he fell a further shot behind and was 12 back going into Sunday.

"Today was better," Woods said. "I felt like I made some nice adjustments with my putting and that was the thing that held me back yesterday. I've driven it well the last three days, my iron play was been good. And the firm conditions I like, that's kind of right up my alley with iron play. Just wish I could have putted a little bit better yesterday."



AP

Tiger Woods waits to hit on the 11th hole during the third round of the Genesis Invitational golf tournaament at Riviera Country Club, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

What stood out was the day. It was his best score on a Saturday in an official event since the fall of 2019.

It's a small sample size to be sure—12 tournaments since he won the Zozo Championship in Japan in 2019—but his legs are a bigger issue than how he swings the club.

Woods shattered bones in his right leg and ankle from a car crash in Los Angeles two years ago. He returned 14 months later to play in the Masters and made the cut, a remarkable feat. And then on the weekend, he limped his way to a pair of 78s.

A month later at Southern Hills for the PGA Championship, he again made the cut with some dazzling play down the stretch on Friday. But the wind shifted, a cold front arrived in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and he shot 79 and withdrew.

Woods made the cut on the number at Riviera and started on the back nine. He opened with a 15-foot birdie putt, missed a good chance on the par-5 11th and then raised the putter in his left hand as his 25-foot birdie putt from the fringe on the par-3 14th dropped for another birdie.

CHAMPIONSHIP

From Page 20

The last game of the season started out slow as both Blue Haus and Chang Ming Market missed shots aplenty and had a boatload of turnovers.

Nonetheless, Blue Haus made just enough shots to lead, 14-9, following a low-scoring opening quarter.

Scoring went up a bit in the second quarter with vastly improved center Marlon De Dios giving Blue Haus a spark with 4 points inside the paint that pushed the undefeated team to a 33-27 spread at halftime.

Blue Haus started the first four minutes of the third quarter like a team on a mission, as they quickly dropped a 12-3 run against an unprepared Chang Ming Market to establish their biggest lead, 45-30, on a fastbreak layup by Schmidt.

Thankfully for coach Dennis Cortez, lead guard Mark Ferrer and reserve forward Chris Lilles scored on a 3 and a 2-pointer to cut it back to 10 points, 45-35, time down to 5:30 in the third quarter.

Chang Ming Market would eventually outscore Blue Haus, 7-9, the rest of the period to cut their deficit to 8 points, 44-52, with the last point courtesy of a free throw from Alvin Almario, who fished Schmidt's fourth personal foul.

That set up a nip-and-tuck payoff period, where both teams left everything on the court.

After two minutes of no points, Juan Camacho beat the shot clock to edge Chang Ming Market even closer, 46-52, with 7:32 left in the ballgame,

A triple by Ferrer at the 6:25 mark made it just a 3-point game.

After Schmidt's fifth and last foul, Brendon Talania made a nifty pass to a wide-open De Dios under the basket to give Blue Haus some breathing space, 55-49.

This, however, was quickly answered by a rainbow connection from Brennan that brought it back to just a 3-point deficit, 52-55, with a little over 4 minutes remaining.

Brennan had a chance to tie the game at 57-all when he made a layup plus a foul from Elmer Esdrelon a minute later but missed the free throw.

Talania's mid-range jumper in the next Blue Haus possession made it 59-56 before a Sidney Quan free throw and a fastbreak layup by Ferrer tied things up at 59-59 with 2:29 ticks left on the game clock.

Both teams exchanged empty offensive forays then De Dios side-stepped his way for a layup to give favor back to Blue Haus, 61-59.

This was followed by an airball from Ferrer and daredevil missed layup by Brennan, who came down limping.

Ferrer would eventually be fouled by Jay-R Barrios when he crossed him over, but made only 1-2 free throws. He redeemed himself moments later when his basket gave Chang Ming Market a 62-61 lead with 46.4 seconds left.

Elmer Esdrelon would be fouled by B.J. Palacios in the next play and the veteran guard would make a free throw to tie the game at 62-all.

Both teams would again trade empty possessions before Alex Standish fouled De Vero 50 feet away from the Blue Haus basket.

De Vero would make 1-2 with 14.9 second left that gave Blue Haus a 1-point lead. After a Chang Ming Market timeout, Brennan broke away from Fitual for what seemed like uncontested reverse layup that he missed.

Camacho then fouled De Vero with 7.1 seconds left and the latter again split his charities but not after being given three free throws as Quan was whistled for a warning for distracting the shooter.

Without a timeout, Chang Ming Market had to make something happen in the final possession, but no Hail Mary shot came as Barrios stole the ball across midcourt to seal Blue Haus' win and the championship.

Blue Haus coach Dan Chan attributed the win to the team's unheralded players like De Vero and Talania stepping up after Schmidt fouled out.

Chan also thanked Blue Haus owner Cecile Camama for continuing to support the team.

Coming into the winner-take-all championship game, Chan also advised his players not to be complacent as Chang Ming Market is a team to be reckoned with and he was proven right as the runners-up almost beat them.

Schmidt went on to pace Blue Haus in scoring with 13 points, while Talania and De Vero added 11 and 10 markers, respectively. De Dios and Kelvin Fitial tossed in 8 apiece for good measure.

Ferrer led Chang Ming Market in the heartbreaking loss with 16 points, while Brennan fired 14 markers.

The rest of the Blue Haus team is made up of Nate and Dan Mateo, Alex Lauron, Reymark Castro, Mike Aitoge, Bruce Berline, and Junar Guiab.

The result of the masters division championship game between Blue Haus and JSN Construction will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Blue Haus 64 – Schmidt 13, Talania 11, De Vero 10, Fitial 8, De Dios 8, N. Mateo 5, Esdrelon 4, Aitoge 2, Castro 2, Lauron 1.

Chang Ming Market 62 – Ferrer 16, Brennan 14, Almario 7, Palacios 6, Camacho 6, Lilles 2, Standish 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-9, 33-27, 52-44, 64-62.

SOLOISTS

From Page 20

athlon Association of the CNMI and that it was great racing with other women athletes, some of which were her friends. "It was great to see all these women out here, motivating and pushing each other to finish the race," said Spaeth.

As for the course, she said it was windy with the strong tailwind and headwind, and that she had to keep her pace to make sure she wasn't going too slow but that it was "challenging and fun" at the same time.

With the Pacific Games near the end of the year, Spaeth was asked if she would like the chance to represent CNMI in the triathlon events and she said "I hadn't thought about that until after they mentioned it today. For now, I just wanted to join this duathlon and just keep the triathlon in my radar."

In the other divisions, Jaypee Pangelinan came in first in the men's U30 category with a time of 1:34:50 and second to him was Kim Dalupo with 2:04:26.

Jay-Ar Barrios was the lone competitor in the men's 30 to 39 age group and came in at 1:19:31, while in the women's 30 to 39 age group, Kathy Ruszala completed the trek at 1:32:08, followed by Kerri Bauer at 1:39:57.

In the men's 40 to 49 age group, Leon Wania came in first with a time of 1:37:15, followed by Jess Gariguez with a time of 1:49:42.

In the women's 40-49 age group, Jayanne Felipe came in first at 1:34:22, second was Pamela Walsh with a time of 1:45:02, third was Sheila Mabutas at 1:47:40.

In the men's 50 to 59 age group, the lone participant was Raymund Tolentino with a time of 1:56:07.

Lastly in the men's 60 years and up, Edgar Abalos topped it with a time of 1:33:18, followed by Ponciano Corotan at 1:38:27.

In the mixed relay division, Ren Ren Gaviola and Shigeki Tenorio clocked in first with a time of 1:11:10; second was team Bobax Magic at 1:29:44; and third was the team The Brooke Sisters with a time of 1:34:11.

TRAC secretary general Jojo Valencia said, "On behalf of the Triathlon Association of the CNMI, I would like to thank all participants and congratulations to all the winners! A big thank you to our sponsors, especially to Tan Holdings, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and IT&E. This event wouldn't have been possible without your support and generosity. Lastly, to all volunteers, thank you so much for your time. We really appreciate your help!"

Proceeds from TRAC's 7th Saipan Duathlon will go to the sport federation's preparations for the triathlon event of this year's Honoria Pacific Games 2023 in November.

KOUKI

From Page 20

was the last 300m. My arms and legs were starting to get tired and made me want to stop and rest, but the thought of winning the race kept me moving, he said.

Although Watanabe was focused on completing the race, he managed to find one or two stingrays during the swim. "It was a very fun race."

Guerrero, for her part, won the women's 1,000 after reaching the shore in 15:02.46. She was followed by fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmers Sari Barman (16:07.79) and Michelle Chen (17:20.34).

"Even though I was tired, I also felt accomplished. I want to thank coach Hiro (Tsunami Saipan coach Hiroyuki Kimura) for giving us such hard workouts in regular practice. It's tough but I know it's necessary to be a strong swimmer," said Guerrero,

The 11-year-old Mount Carmel School student said the hardest part of the race was locating the final buoy.

"It was a struggle to find. I ended up getting confused twice. It ended up taking extra time. My personal lesson for next time," she said.

In the 500, another pair of Tsunami Saipan tankers took the plum as Richard Zhao and Sera Guerrero were the first to arrive on land.

Zhao timed in at 7:44.00 to top the boys division followed by fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmers Haoyang Song and Jireh Wang with times of 9:43.36 and 10:21.91, respectively.

"I am happy to win first place for the 500m swimming race. First of all, I would like to thank coach Hiro for his hard work. Thank you Jerry Tan for generously providing us with a training venue. Thank you to my parents for their support and encouragement," said Zhao.

Unlike other swimmers, the seventh grader from Saipan Community School said the hardest part of the 500m was the start.

"I felt very tired because I swam too fast at the beginning. In the next race, I will adjust my pace and strive for better results. During the competition, I saw a lot of small fish that swam much faster than me. Unfortunately, I didn't see a turtle," he said.

Guerrero, for her part, squeaked past Tsunami Saipan teammate Shane Barman to win the 500m for girls.

Guerrero finished with a time of 9:59.81, closely followed by Barman's 10:00.32. Another Tsunami Saipan swimmer, Mia Camacho, rounded out third place by clocking in at 11:50.90.

"I was tired but I felt good. To swim 200m straight twice was the toughest part," said Guerrero, a 9-year-old student from Mt. Carmel School.

She added the highlight of the early Saturday morning swim was when she saw three stingrays.

Results of the 50m for U8 and 100m for U10 will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Snyder 'amazed' by Bathurst experience

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI national athletics coach Dr. Ron Snyder got to play athlete for a day when he competed in the 55-59 division of the World Athletics Cross Country Championships 2023 last Sunday in Bathurst, Australia.

The 56-year-old Saipan International School headmaster ran the 6-kilometer event and finished with an unofficial time of 36:09.

"I met my expectations for the race and think I could have done even better. It has been a long time since I competed in a field like that and I am afraid I got carried away in the 250m opening uphill start. The race conditions were really nice. Bathurst has been experiencing a heat wave so they moved the start time up from 12:15pm to 9:10am and it was a really nice temperature. Blue skies and hot but not too hot," Snyder said in a social media message to the *Saipan Tribune*.

While he thoroughly enjoyed the cross country run, the Run Saipan secretary/treasurer admitted that it didn't come with difficulties.

"The most challenging part of the run was right after my favorite part of the run. We have a slight decline and then run straight into a 15m long mud pit. I loved the mud pit. It is such a fun challenge to watch and to participate in. Coming out, we have to go right into a 15-degree hill. I was not a fan of that hill. But then we turned a corner and went right into another slight decline before running through a vineyard, where we went to choose whether we wanted to run through the Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, or Shiraz grapes. Then it is up another steep hill, down a decline and weaving amongst the tires in the chicane section before we had to do it all over again (each loop was 2 kilometers)."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Dr. Ron Snyder in action in the 55-59 division of the World Athletics Cross Country Championships 2023 last Sunday in Bathurst, Australia

In all, the 2020 NMSA Coach of the Year said the 6K cross country race was amazing.

"The quality of athletes, both on a personal and athletic level, was incredible. It was a real treat sharing meals with the best runners in the world. All of the runners were great. In the masters we had nice conversations and I even got to run into one of my friends from the World Athletics Coaching Course I took several years ago in New Zealand. The U20 and senior runners were also great, sharing contact info, swapping shirts. It was a fun event!"

As for the World Athletics Cross Country Championships 2023 in general, Snyder said it was a great experience coaching CNMI national athletics team members Tania Tan and Sildrey Veloria in their 10K and personally running the 6K. He also fired a warning shot for future participants of local cross country races.

"The people were great, the organizers were amazing. and the comradery was spectacular, but I will probably keep coming back to the course itself. This was rated as the toughest cross country course in the history of the sport and it didn't disappoint: steep hills, sand pits, mud pits, slalom sections, and killer heat. I don't know what sadist was in charge but I have learned some great lessons and have some new ideas for next year's All Schools Cross Country Championships!"

Hilitais, Tatagas defeat foes in MS girls soccer

LEIGH GASES

Tanapag Middle School's Hailey Benavente, right, goes up against Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Selena Atalig in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Hopwood Middle School Hilitais and Tanapag Middle School Tatagas defeated their respective foes in the girls middle school 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League played last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Hopwood Middle School secured a lopsided win against Cha-Cha Ocean View Middle School, 9-0 on Thursday, while the Tanapag Middle School Tatagas beat Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 3-2, on Tuesday.

Led by the Hilitais' Alyssa Borlongan, she almost single-footedly scored all of her team's goals—with twice the hat-trick at 6—whereas the Lancherus could not score a single point.

Borlongan's teammates Yelynn Ha and Kaye Ann Costales scored the three other goals and the game ended with a goose egg for the Lancherus.

In the Tatagas-Napu Riders game, they were both evenly matched, but the last-ditch effort by the Tatagas' Xyriel Pascual broke the tie and secured the W in the 49th minute.

Napu Riders' Kalia Mendiola and Selena Atalig scored their team's two goals, while the Tatagas' Hailey Benavente and Isabella Cruz scored the team's first two goals.

Also on Thursday, Saipan International School won against FMS, 3-0.

The Geckos' Beatrice Gross cobbled up all their goals and completed the hat-trick, which eventually sealed the deal against the silent Napu Riders.

In the first game on Tuesday, Dandan Middle School defeated ChaCha Ocean View Middle School, 2-0.

The Tottots' Jahsmin Ramon scored the first goal in the 30th minute, while Kailani Laniyo scored the second in the 45th minute.

The Hilitais are on top of the standings with 2 wins and 1 draw; the Geckos have 1 win and 2 draws; TMS are at 1 win and 1 draw; FMS is at 1 win and 2 losses; DMS is at 1 win and 1 loss; while the COVMS are at 3 losses.

TMS, SIS still undefeated in MS boys v-ball

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Tanapag Middle School Tatagas and Saipan International School Geckos boys varsity volleyball team are still undefeated in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023.

The Tatagas lead the league with four wins after their recent conquest of Hopwood Middle School Hilitais, while the Geckos preyed on the Agape Christian School Torchbearers last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

A William S. Reyes Elementary School student serves the ball last Feb. 10 during their game in the Public School System Coed Elementary School Volleyball Tournament at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Tatagas and Hilitais battled it out in the last game of the night and in the nail-biting, tie-breaking third set, a series of back-to-back points from both teams prolonged the game as the Tatagas held on by the skin of their teeth and won, 15-12.

With the Tatagas' first set loss, 15-21, to the second set win, 21-19, they brought over their A game into the third set but they had their work caught out for them as the Hilitais also wanted the W.

However, a couple of misplaced shots and mistakes at the net by the Hilitais cost them as they gave the Tatagas' rotation of Roman Teigita, Ethan and Stanley Magofna, Jan Aeden Cruz, Jon Aeden Pinaula, Konin McCale, Benigno Sablan, Ali Santos Jr., Collin Maratita, Jesse Peredo, Kinluk Sharry, and Wenio Wenio, the advantage—which they held onto and pulled away into the lead and won.

Meanwhile, the Geckos' rotation of Daniel and Theo Joab, Nason Wessel, Aiden Camacho, Moshe Sikkel, Landon Pudney, and Allan Cabrera had an easier time as they sailed past ACS, 21-3, 21-8.

The Geckos stuck their bumps, sets, and spikes as the Torchbearers scrambled to connect with the ball and succumbed in a swift game.

In earlier games that afternoon, Dandan Middle School varsity slipped past Saipan Community School in three sets, 21-16, 15-21, 15-3; Saipan International School junior varsity won against HMS JV, 21-9, 20-22, 15-9; and Grace Christian Academy defeated ChaCha Ocean View Middle School varsity, 21-17, 21-11.

Mount Carmel School and SCS varsity's game was moved to March 7.

In Pool A standings, TMS leads with their 4 wins; DMS is second with 3-1; SCS is third with 2-2; HMS is at 1-3; and MCS have yet to win with 4 losses.

In Pool B Standings, SIS leads with 3 wins; Agape Christian School is at 3-2; GCA is 3-1; FMS is still 1-2; and COVMS still has 3 losses.

In the junior varsity standings, DMS still leads with a 2-1 card; HMS has one win; and SCS, SIS, and COVMS have one loss each.

Tatum scores All-Star record 55, Team Giannis wins 184-175

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Snyder 'amazed' by Bathurst experience

PAGE 19

Soloists Buco, Spaeth rule 7th Saipan Duathlon

LEIGH GASES

Joel Buco is all smiles as he crosses the finish line first in the men's solo division of the 7th Saipan Duathlon last Sunday at the Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

LEIGH GASES

Robyn Spaeth crosses the finish line first in the women's solo division of the 7th Saipan Duathlon last Sunday at the Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Joel Buco and Robyn Spaeth topped the solo division of the 7th Saipan Duathlon held during a windy Sunday morning at the Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

Buco, an avid biker, sped through the 5-kilometer run, 20-km bike, and 2.5-km run in a time of 1:15:11 to win the men's solo category, while Spaeth, a Marianas High School teacher, zoomed to first in the women's solo category with a time of 1:24:53.

Second to Buco was Mike Aparte who clocked in at 1:19:31, followed by Hernan Cristobal's 1:20:26 time.

Shawna Brennfleck came in second to Spaeth with a time of 1:26:14, while Kimiko Mckagan completed the Top 3 at 1:29:19.

The 49-year-old Buco told *Saipan Tribune* in Filipino after the race that the course was nice and windy but it was nothing that he couldn't handle.

For Spaeth's part, the 39-year-old said she was still sore from running the Ekiden Relay a day before but she pushed through and tried to see throughout the race if she could keep the same pace or go a little bit past that.

She also said that it was a great race organized by the Tri-

See SOLOISTS on Page 18

Championship completes perfect season

MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus players and coach Dan Chan pose with their championship and individual awards trophies after winning the open division of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court. Also in photo are LSA officials.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Haus outlasted Chang Ming Market, 64-62, in an epic finals of the open division of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

The win completed an undefeated season for the team, but it needed a critical miss by Chang Ming Market's Don Brennan with 7.1 seconds left and two crucial free throws by Finals MVP Ivan De Vero in the final seconds to seal the deal.

Blue Haus also had to play the last six minutes and change of the championship match without leading scorer and mythical five member Douglas Schmidt who fouled out.

See CHAMPIONSHIP on Page 18

Kouki, Maria take 1,000m race

By MARK RABAGO
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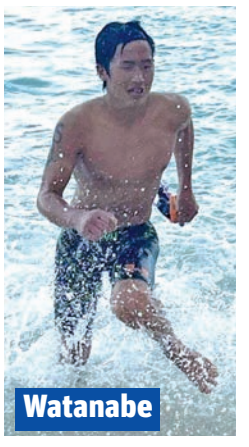
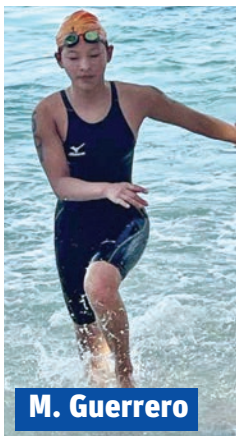
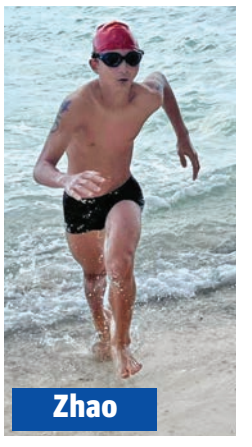
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



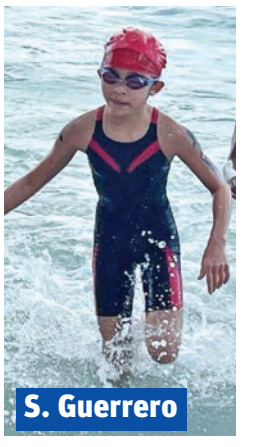
Watanabe



M. Guerrero



Zhao



S. Guerrero

Kouki Watanabe and Maria Guerrero proved they got next after topping the 1,000m swim of the Tan Holding 50th Anniversary Swim Meet last Saturday in the waters off the Civic Center Beach.

Watanabe topped the men's division with a time of 14:16.48. He was followed by Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center stablemates Justin Ma and Andrew Nunez with times of 14:50.30 and 16:16.02, respectively.

Watanabe said winning the 1,000m event was a culmination of all the hard work he's been doing in training.

"When I won the race, I felt happy that my hard training paid off, and I felt very accomplished that I was able to beat my opponents," said the 14-year-old Marianas High School student.

As for the most challenging part of the race, Watanabe said hands down it's the last stretch of the 1,000m.

"The hardest part of the race

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